Blunder In Paradise: WILL HULK HOGAN EVER STOP EMBARRASSING HIMSELF?

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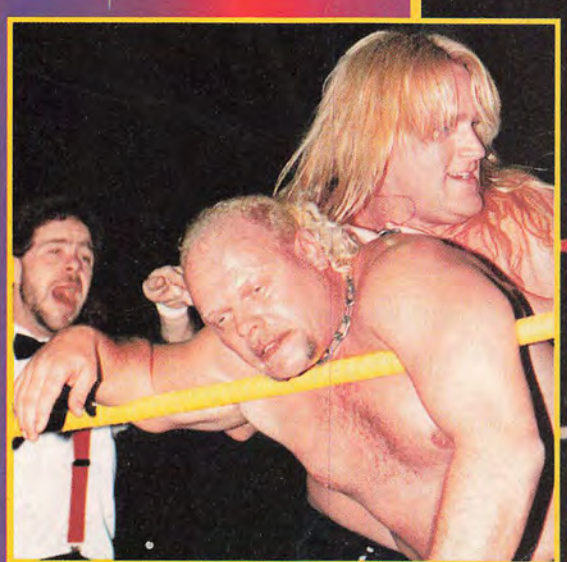
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Sincerely Yours

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MOST X-CELLENT!

I think WrestleMania X was one of the best pay-per-views ever. I hope someday they have another WrestleMania as good as this year's. The WWF is number one, and so is the "Hitman," Bret Hart!

STEPHANIE LUCERO
Albuquerque, NM

ATOP THE LADDER

Just want to give my opinion on WrestleMania X. I do believe it was the *best* card ever in WWF history.

Although he was rooting for Shawn Michaels to win the ladder match, reader John Feeney congratulates Razor Ramon on his effort. He called the Intercontinental title bout an early favorite for Match of the Year.



My favorite match, and certainly an early favorite for Match of the Year, was the ladder match for the Intercontinental title. What excitement! While I wanted Shawn Michaels to win, I salute Razor Ramon on a hard-fought battle. It had to be the most exciting and unpredictable match I ever saw. Why Diesel was forced to leave ringside confuses me, but still it was a great match!

Owen Hart upsetting brother Bret was a scientific masterpiece. The return of Curt Hennig was shocking, as was his controversial decision. Still, "Mr. Perfect" is my favorite wrestler, and I'm glad he's back in the WWF.

The mixed tag team match wasn't a total disappointment; Luna Vachon splashing Dink was excellent. Her leap off the top turnbuckle was incredible, and made it obvious she deserves a shot at Alundra Blayze. Johnny Polo was also great, and his ring smarts were evident as he saved the tag team title for The Quebecers. Bret Hart's title victory was a fitting finale for WrestleMania X, and a sure sign the WWF will remain the top federation in America!

JOHN FEENEY
Glassboro, NJ

REALITY BYTES

In your April '94 issue, you held "INSIDE WRESTLING Computer Tournament '94." I took the same 16 wrestlers and used a program my friends and I use for a wrestling club we've created. Our results were similar, with a few upsets:

First round—Rick Rude beat Razor Ramon, four matches to three; Bret Hart defeated Dustin Rhodes, 4-1; Jerry Lawler beat Shawn Michaels, 4-3; Ric Flair defeated Yokozuna, 4-2; Sting beat Sabu, 4-0; The Undertaker defeated Tracey Smothers, 4-1;

Lord Steven Regal beat Lex Luger, 4-3; Brian Lee defeated Big Van Vader, 4-2. (The last three matches had different winners than your computer tournament.)

Quarterfinals—Rude defeated Regal, 4-2; Undertaker beat Lawler, 4-3; Sting defeated Lee, 4-2; Hart beat Flair, 4-3.

Semifinals—Rude beat Undertaker, 4-3; Hart defeated Sting, 4-0.

Final—Hart defeated Rude, 4-3. (In the computer tournament, Rude beat Hart in seven matches.)

We also held a 60-man royal rumble. It was won by The Ultimate Warrior.

RON TENEYCK
Tacoma, WA

TEAM UP, INDIES

I have recently had the opportunity to watch several independent federations, like IWCCW, Smoky Mountain, USWA, and ECW. These federations are all great, with stars like Terry Funk, Sabu, Tracey Smothers, Tony Atlas, and more, so why don't they all combine into one ultimate federation? It would definitely be as popular as WCW or the WWF, and would have enough talent to become the number-two federation, surpassing the land of boredom known as WCW.

So if the heads of these federations are smart, they'll all get together and form the ultimate federation.

NATE PELLEY
Cincinnati, OH

ROOTIN' FOR ROSS

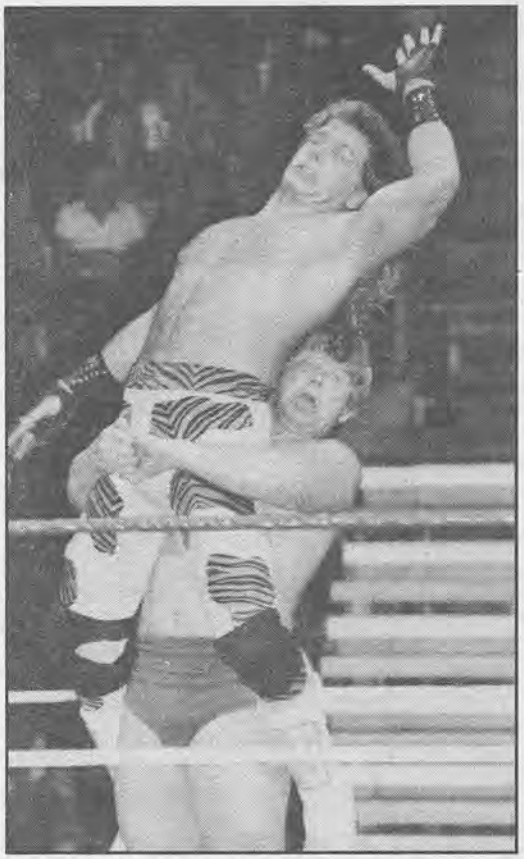
In response to Luther P. Martin's letter "Jim (G) Ross" in the December 1993 issue, let me tell him something—he's gross for his lack of intelligence. Jim Ross is without a doubt the greatest broadcaster that has ever called a wrestling match. He is an inspiration for me to become a broadcaster. When he announces, it makes the match more exciting!

MARK J. GOLDEN
Delmont, PA

PERFECT BACKLUND?

I just finished reading Bobby Heenan's article ("How Curt Hennig Can Regain Perfection," April 1994), and I agree with "The Brain" 100 percent. But I feel there's only one person who can put perfection back in Hennig, and with all honesty I believe it's Bob Backlund.

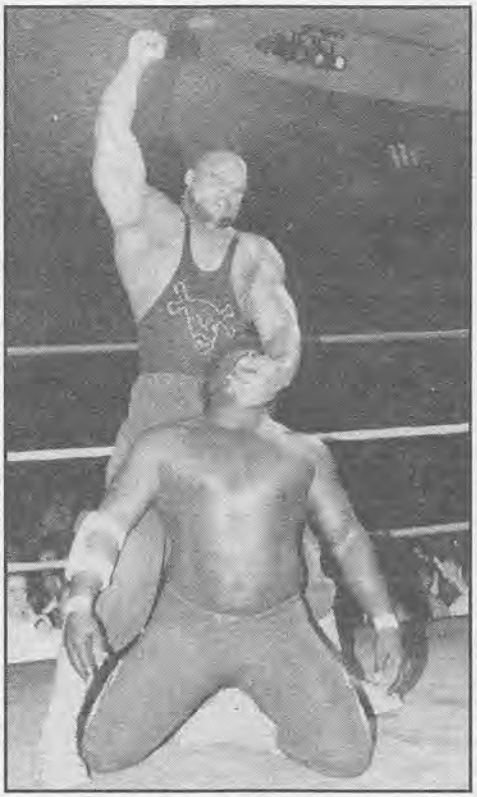
Think about it. You certainly don't have to worry about Backlund throwing in the towel, as he definitely remembers that night and what it cost him. And who other than Bret Hart personifies straight-up wrestling? Who, other than Hart and Lord Steven Regal, have a counter for almost every hold, not to mention a half-dozen different finishing moves?



Bob Backlund (battling Shawn Michaels) might be the man to revitalize Curt Hennig, reader Erik Baker contends. The combination could boost both men's careers.

This Backlund-Hennig tandem would make fans of scientific wrestling proud. The combination could revitalize both men's careers, and get "Mr. Perfect" the World title that has eluded him in the WWF.

ERIK BAKER
Silver Spring, MD



Independent wrestlers like Tony Atlas and Koko B. Ware would be better served if the various indy promotions merged into one large federation, notes reader Nate Pelley.

PARTNER FOR PILLMAN

It's no secret that Brian Pillman has struggled since The Hollywood Blonds split up. It wasn't long after the breakup of the

(Continued on page 58)

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

Why are wrestling promoters so damned stubborn?

Why, I ask, do the WWF and WCW steadfastly refuse to sanction a light heavyweight championship? This situation is beyond absurd. Could it be that we were *too* entertained by the WCW title bouts of 1991 and 1992 featuring such incredible athletes as Jushin Liger, Brian Pillman, and Brad Armstrong?

Sounds ridiculous, doesn't it? Well, maybe it isn't. More than one source–reliable, informed insiders—have indicated to me that the reason the light heavyweight division does not exist in the WWF or WCW is that federation officials were pressured by wrestlers in the heavyweight division who felt threatened by the growing popularity of the junior ranks. These unnamed heavyweights saw how turned on the fans were by the electrifying contests featuring the Ligers and Pillmans that they began to believe that the fans would no longer be interested in their matches.

WCW stripped Armstrong of the light heavyweight title when he was injured and unable to defend the belt against Pillman on September 2, 1992. Nearly two years later, the promised tournament to fill the vacancy has yet to happen. There are, perhaps, influential wrestlers who made sure it never happened.

If this is indeed true, the paranoia of these men is astounding. Like boxing, wrestling's heavyweight division will always be the glamour spot. There is something about larger-than-life men in hand-to-hand combat that will always have a mystique all its own. But there is also a major thrill to watching smaller, more agile men in battle. The success of a second division can only add to the overall popularity of the sport. And that would benefit everyone–the light heavyweights, the fans who enjoy watching the light heavyweights, and even the heavyweights who are jealously trying to protect their turf.

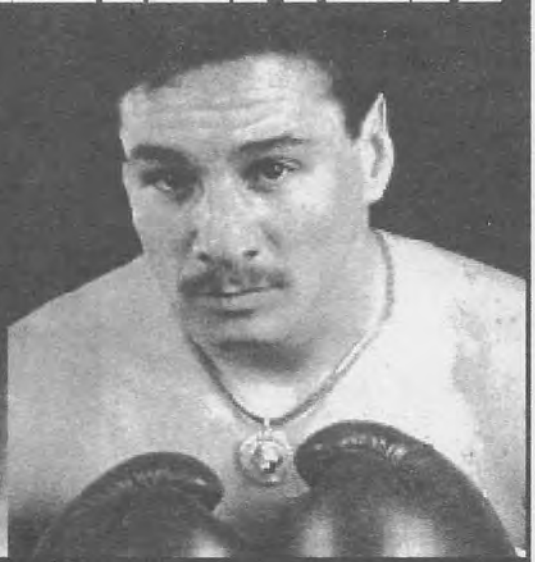
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NAMES MA

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF. What do **Cactus Jack** and **Yukon Eric** have in common? Well, remember the line from **William Shakespeare's** *Julius*



Caesar: "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears"? Jack and Eric could do precisely that! Each lost part of their ear due to a brutal assault.

Eric's unfortunate accident happened against **Killer Kowalski** back in 1954, and still ranks as one of wrestling's most notorious injuries. Jack's mishap occurred at the hands of **Big Van Vader** in Munich, Germany, on WCW's European tour. More than half his ear was severed when Vader threw him against the tangled ropes. WCW officials immediately sent him home to recuperate. The good news is that his hearing has not been impaired. The bad news is that he is having minor problems with his balance, but he'll probably be able to adjust to that over time.

The injury is essentially cosmetic, and Jack could have it repaired if he chose to sit out four months. But Cactus—always dedicated to his craft—is currently more concerned with getting revenge against Vader and winning the WCW tag team title with **Maxx Payne**. Any surgery may have to wait until he retires from the ring.

The Nasty Boys may not be so invincible after all. They lost three non-title bouts to **Kevin** and **Evad Sullivan** on a recent Midwestern swing, leading some to believe the World tag team champions might be on the verge of losing their belts

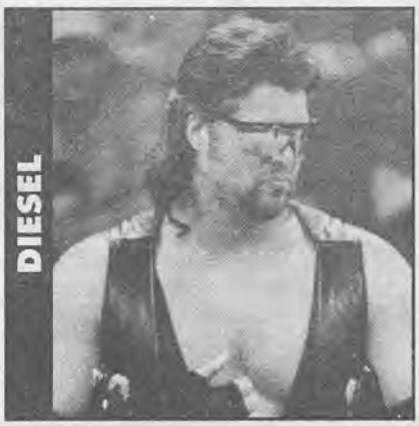


... U.S. champion **Steve Austin** took three controversial verdicts from one-time tag teammate **Brian Pillman**, who claimed Austin's legs were on the ropes—thus invalidating any pin ... WCW announcer **Jesse Ventura** has won his legal battle with the WWF. A federal jury awarded him $809,958 after finding that the WWF defrauded him for royalties on federation merchandise, most notably videotapes. TitanSports, the WWF's parent company, says it may consider an appeal.

Even though **Hulk Hogan** regularly appears on WCW telecasts to talk about potential matches with Flair, he hadn't signed with WCW as of press time. I'm beginning to doubt he ever will.

Diesel has done what his boss, **Shawn Michaels**, couldn't—take the WWF Intercontinental belt from **Razor Ramon**. The seven-footer surprised Ramon on April 13 at a TV taping in Rochester, New York. Diesel used a jackknife to stun Razor, and then covered him for the pin. The triumph capped a meteoric rise for Diesel, who at the start of 1994 was primarily Michaels' bodyguard. He began to gain attention at the Royal Rumble, when he threw out seven of his rivals in succession. Someone with his size and strength will be very difficult to defeat.

The feud women's wrestling fans have waited for since last fall



is finally here! WWF World Women's champion **Alundra Blayze** and the crazed **Luna Vachon** exchanged words after Vachon—speaking on behalf of **Bam Bam Bigelow**—mocked new WWF World champion **Bret Hart** on **Shawn Michaels'** new "Heartbreak Hotel" segment on WWF TV. Blayze came to Hart's defense, and the war was on.

Later, Blayze appeared on **Jerry**

KIN' NEWS

By Bill Apter

Lawler's "King's Court" without her belt, saying it had been stolen and hinting she thought she knew the culprit. Luna (without Bigelow) stormed the ring, saying she was unjustly accused of the crime. The two women nearly came to blows before officials separated them.

Hart and Bigelow, whom the "Hitman" called a worthy opponent at the close of WrestleMania X, are scheduled for a series of matches. They had a fantastic match in last year's final of the "King Of The Ring" tournament in Dayton, Ohio. This year's tournament and pay-per-view is set for Baltimore on June 19, and rumors are circulating that Hart will have a rematch with **Yokozuna**. Remember, the Samoan reclaimed the belt from Hogan



at that event last year.

Meanwhile, **Lex Luger** and **Curt Hennig** are again at each other's throats. They have sparred verbally since WrestleMania X, where special referee Hennig disqualified Luger for striking him.

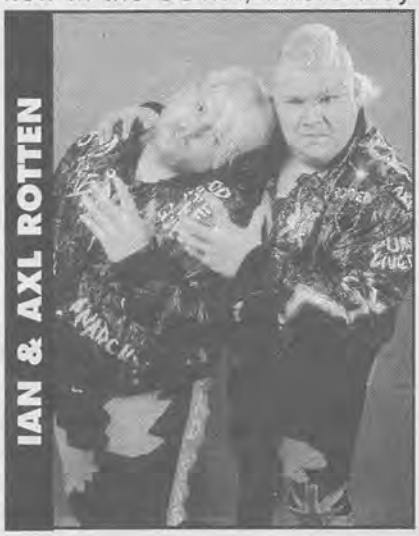
For 48 hours, **Mabel** and **Mo** ruled the world. **Men on a Mission** shocked **The Quebecers** in London to win the tag team title on March 29. But you knew **Jacques** and **Pierre** wouldn't be down for long. They won the belts back two days later in Sheffield, England ... Expect **The Heavenly Bodies** to become WWF tag team title contenders once they return from Japan. Smoky Mountain Wrestling is in their past, since they lost a loser-leaves-SMW match to **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** in Pikeville, Kentucky.



"I don't like losing to [**Rick**] **Morton** and [**Robert**] **Gibson**," said **Tom Prichard** after the match. "But in the end, it's all irrelevant. **Jim** [**Del Ray**] and I have bigger fish to fry! Smoky was great, but you can't stay in one place forever."

At the same card, **Tracey Smothers** and **Chris Candido** waged war in a ladder match, but the ladder wasn't as sturdy as the one used in WrestleMania X, and it broke while the two were punching each other on the top rung, trying to reach an envelope containing a $2,500 prize hanging from the ceiling. Both tumbled to the mat, but Smothers got up first, climbed the ladder (held together by referee **Mark Curtis**), and claimed the cash.

Remember **Bad Breed**, ECW fans? Well, **Ian** and **Axl Rotten** are now in the USWA, where they



opened on a good note by beating **Jeff Gaylord** and **Spellbinder**. The featured match had **Brian Christopher** and **Eddie Gilbert** defeating **Adam Bomb** and **Troy Graham.** Of course, it helped that **Doug Gilbert** was the special referee.

Finally, good news for Southern California wrestling fans: One of the sport's most famous venues is back! Mexico's EMLL federation has signed a deal with promoter **Karl Lauer** to begin running shows on alternate Fridays at the Grand Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles, which reopened for boxing in March. A quarter-century ago, **Fred Blassie** and **Mil Mascaras** regularly wrestled to sellouts at the Olympic. Some American wrestlers will reportedly appear on the cards to complement the Mexican stars.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □

ON THE ROAD

With Chris Bernucca

TWO YEARS AGO, I was at a bachelor party for a friend. There were three women present, and they weren't invited for their stimulating conversation.

One of the women, in addition to her obvious physical gifts, also possessed the gift of gab. Her name was Ashley, and she was all of 21 years old. The party had died down and Ashley was milling about the hotel suite, making small talk with the guys.

Ashley said she had come to New York from California with her infant daughter three years earlier. Although a bright woman, she knew that her greatest asset was her body. She put it to work right away, dancing in nightclubs and entertaining at parties for a discreet escort service. She said she had made $72,000 in the previous year and owned a four-bedroom apartment on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, where a live-in nanny took care of her daughter when she wasn't there.

Being the inquiring reporter that I am, I pressed on with my questions. Did she have a fiancee or boyfriend? If so, was he able to accept what she did for a living? Did her daughter know what Mommy was doing when she went out at night? Would she ever tell her daughter about this part of her life? And most important, did she respect herself?

Ashley is just one of thousands of people in America who do whatever they can, often at the sacrifice of self-respect, in order to survive and make things easier for themselves and their families.

Another is Nikolai Volkoff.

You remember Volkoff, don't you? The rulebreaker from Russia, infamous for his so-called singing of the Soviet national anthem, won the WWF tag team title in 1985. He paired with The Iron Sheik to win the belts from Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo at WrestleMania I.

That was Volkoff's brush with greatness. Three months later, he and Sheik lost the belts. Volkoff eventually changed, made friends with Hacksaw Duggan, and feuded with the turncoat Sgt. Slaughter in 1990. However, he eventually left the WWF and began wrestling in relative anonymity on the independent circuit.

Until recently, when he reappeared in the WWF at a TV taping in upstate New York.

Apparently, Volkoff has fallen upon hard times. As an immigrant whose command of the English language is limited at best, there aren't a lot of job opportunities in the private sector available to him. So he has returned to the WWF, hoping to make things easier for himself and his family.

It didn't take long for Volkoff to find an employer. Ted DiBiase, whose wealth and power have kept several WWF competitors under his thumb, was able to convince Volkoff to compete for him as a rulebreaker. DiBiase appealed to Volkoff's lack of income and his concern for his indigent family members here in the United States and in Russia. Volkoff accepted DiBiase's offer and soon found himself back in the glare of the WWF spotlight, wrestling as a rulebreaker.

But something didn't sit well with Volkoff. Despite being given the opportunity to compete on the sport's highest level, his heart clearly wasn't in his work. Volkoff didn't want to be a rulebreaker. He had endured enough derision from the fans during his first stint in the WWF and didn't want to go through that again.



Nikolai Volkoff, who has fallen on hard times, reluctantly accepted Ted DiBiase's offer to return to the WWF as a rulebreaker.

Of course, the fans sympathized with Volkoff's plight. They chastised DiBiase for forcing Volkoff to do something he found distasteful. Volkoff should be able to compete as a fan favorite if that is what he wants to do.

I agree. Unfortunately, as the famous tag team of Jagger and Richards once said, you can't always get what you want. Rents have to be paid. Mouths have to be fed. Bills have to be mailed. And a personal moral code doesn't get those things done nearly as well as cold, hard cash.

DiBiase didn't force Volkoff to do anything. Nobody forces immigrant Russians to be rulebreakers, just like nobody forces immigrant Haitians to be

(Continued on page 56)

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Hulk Hogan hails from which California beach community?
1) Malibu
2) Pacific Heights
3) Venice Beach
4) Newport Beach

At what University did Ron Simmons play football?
1) Notre Dame
2) Florida State University
3) Michigan State University
4) Oglethorpe University

True or False: Giant Gonzales competed in the 1984 Olympics as a member of Argentina's water polo team
1) True
2) False

The Undertaker was once tag team partners with...
1) Lou Albano
2) Sergeant Slaughter
3) Rick Steiner
4) None of the above

How did you do? If you're up for the challenge and want to put your wrestling knowledge to work, call now and go for the $250!

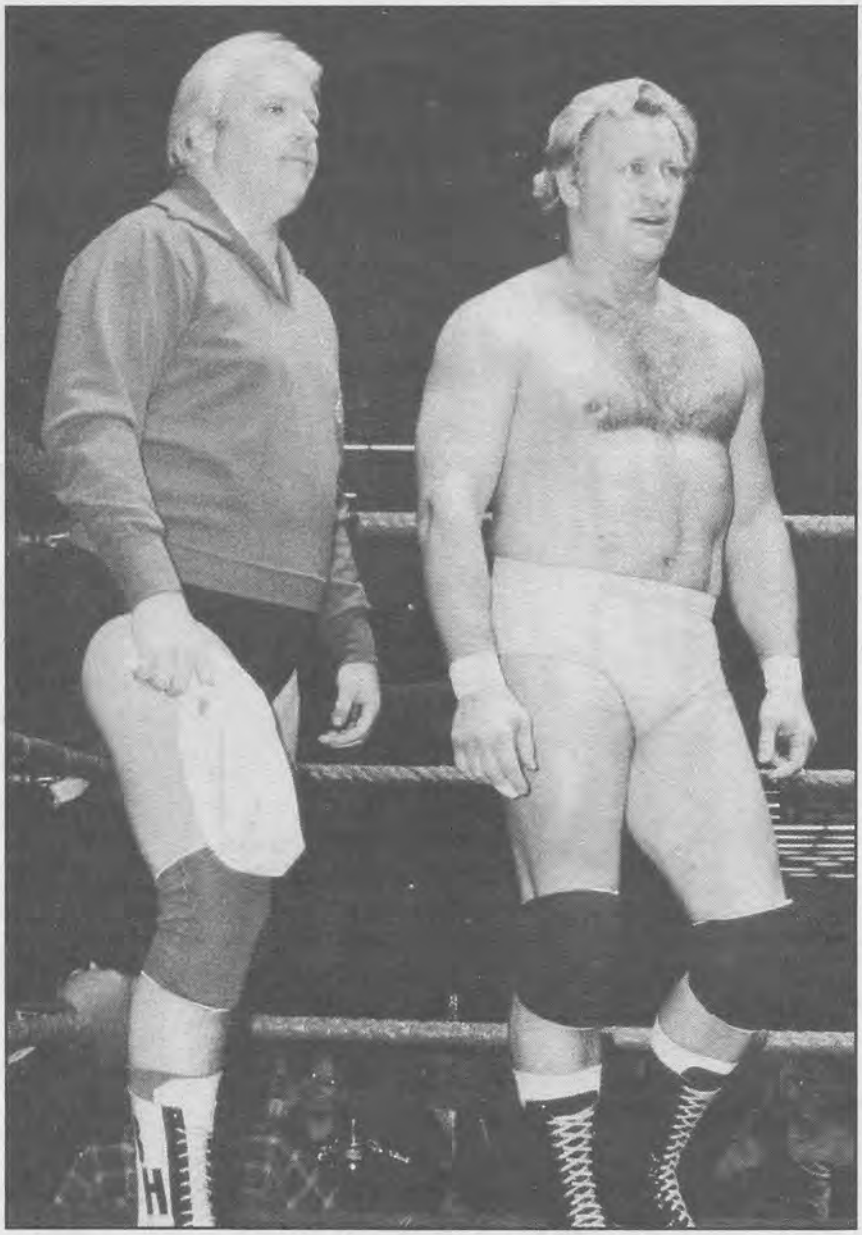
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2156/03-94

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum



Bobby Heenan managed Nick Bockwinkel in the AWA more than a decade ago. Now Bockwinkel is WCW commissioner and Heenan an analyst on its telecasts. Some suspect "The Brain" is doing more than that, though—and that Bockwinkel might also be involved.

HISTORY TELLS US that certain people simply can't be trusted, that they have to be watched with both eyes at all times. Anyone who's followed wrestling over the past two decades can't deny that Bobby Heenan, Ric Flair, and Nick Bockwinkel fit into this group.

That's why this strange Heenan-Flair-Bockwinkel triangle in WCW must be broken up, even if it doesn't exist. Bockwinkel is the WCW commissioner, and his reign has already been tainted. He is no longer fit to be commissioner.

I'm not one to agree with Rush Limbaugh very often, but I definitely go along with Air Windbag when he snidely remarks that when it comes to important people in important positions, even the mere appearance of impropriety is unacceptable.

Limbaugh is referring to Bill Clinton and the Whitewater scandal. I'm referring to the commissioner of a wrestling federation. Sure, there's a wide disparity in the importance of these two positions. Just be patient and follow my reasoning for a moment.

We've often heard baseball commissioners referring to the integrity of the game. Pete Rose and George Steinbrenner were banned because they harmed the integrity of the game. Bowie Kuhn prevented Charlie Finley's Oakland A's from making potential blockbuster trades with the Yankees and Red Sox because the integrity of the game was at stake.

Although I don't necessarily agree with these decisions, I agree that the integrity of a game is extremely important. Fans who come out to a ballpark or wrestling arena must be reasonably sure that the officials and referees are acting in an unbiased manner, that the result is not being altered.

Which brings me back to Bockwinkel. Bobby Heenan managed Bockwinkel in the AWA about a decade ago. He also managed Ric Flair in the WWF

(Continued on page 60)

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the Insider

by Eddie Ellner

(The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.)

NEWS ITEM: TATANKA raises feathers. It was, even by the WWF's low standards, a travesty of the highest order. Surrounding Tatanka in the ring were veteran Indian wrestlers Jay Strongbow and Wahoo McDaniel, recalled from the Thinning Scalp Reservation just for the occasion. The occasion: Tatanka inheriting the sacred Indian headdress. Sounds impressive, reverent, important—until you realize there *is* no sacred Native American headdress, at least none that Strongbow or McDaniel are in a position to give away. All three involved originate from different tribes. It would be like awarding a special Japanese samurai sword to a Korean. Just because they have funny names doesn't mean they share a common heritage.

Nevertheless, the made-for-TV coronation, choreographed and emceed by Keemosabe Vince (Wampum Maker) McMahon, proceeded as scheduled and managed to violate the few remaining canons of taste and decency thought existing in the WWF.

It was depressingly sad to see Strongbow carted out for the occasion. Few of you probably remember a day when he was the most popular wrestler in the WWF. A favorite of McMahon's dad, Strongbow was the most loyal wrestler in the federation. His reward? He

(Continued on page 61)



While Tatanka is of Pembroke Indian descent, the headdress he was awarded on WWF television probably came from a tribe with completely different rituals and customs.

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1935/12-93

ON Assignment

By Liz Hunter

I KNOW YOU people hate Rick Rude references, but please bear with me while I make one more. I felt much like the "Ravishing One" recently. Just as Rude was in Japan while the rest of WCW's elite roster was touring Germany, so was I the odd person out in the North American wrestling media. On March 20, I was covering the finals of the European Cup, where Sting beat Big Van Vader. Virtually every other wrestling journalist I knew was attending or viewing WrestleMania X in New York.

Listen, someone had to do it, for this was a big event in its own right. And I wasn't about to turn down Publisher Stu Saks' offer of a four-day, expenses-paid trip to Europe. But for a wrestling reporter to miss WrestleMania is like a baseball beat writer sitting out the World Series. While staffing Sting-Vader in Hamburg, I naturally wanted to know what was going on at Madison Square Garden across the Atlantic.

There's a six-hour time difference between New York and Hamburg, so the European Cup title match ended at about the same time WrestleMania began. I'm sure someone in town with a satellite dish had bought the pay-per-view, but I didn't know them, so I was left holding the bag. And my curiosity was running wild, to borrow an old Chuck Berry lyric.

(You may be asking, were WCW's wrestlers and personnel equally interested in WrestleMania? Of course, for both professional and personal reasons—many of them have old friends and foes now in the WWF. But they were too concerned with quickly leaving Hamburg for a red-eye flight back to the States. I had no such worries, since I didn't have to return until next morning. (Thank you, Stu!)

It was now slightly past 1 a.m., Hamburg time. Fortunately, I remembered I had my personal telephone directory stashed away in my handbag. I looked at the list of names, trying to discern who *wasn't* at the Garden and instead watched the card at home.

Then I came across a name, nodded my head, and decided to "reach out and touch" someone in Texas with my phone card. A lady you may remember named Wendi Richter.

"Hello, Wendi? Liz here, in Hamburg. Just got through with WCW's European Cup."

"Let me guess," she said, her cowgirl twang unaffected by years of contact with New Yawker pop queen Cyndi Lauper—a miracle, when you stop and think about it. "You want to know about WrestleMania X."

"Of course. You obviously saw the pay-per-view."



Shawn Michaels prepares to dive at Razor Ramon with the ladder between them. Wendi Richter gave Liz Hunter a rave review of this brutal WrestleMania match.

"Man, what a great ladder match between Ramon and Michaels—Razor won, but Shawn pressed him to the limit." I at least had been smart enough to have my VCR record WrestleMania so I could review it once I got home. "And Bret's World champion once again."

"He beat Lex Luger?" *That must've been an interesting match,* I thought.

"No, no, he beat Yokozuna,

(Continued on page 62)

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INSIDE WRESTLING CAPSULE PROFILE 217

ALUNDRA BLAYZE



Among the most athletic woman wrestlers, Alundra Blayze has dominated the WWF since last December. Her most serious challenges may come from Luna Vachon and Japanese stars.

UNTIL LUNA Vachon proves otherwise, Alundra Blayze is the best woman wrestler in North America. The WWF World Women's champion has dominated her competition since winning the revived belt last December in a tournament final ... By now, everyone knows Blayze was formerly Madusa Miceli, a star wrestler in the old AWA and Japan and someone who caused much havoc in WCW *("The name's different. The talent's the same!")* ... In 1984, the 5'9½" blonde was introduced to wrestling by a friend in Minnesota. Instantly hooked, she gave up nursing and modeling careers ... By 1987, she had become a contender, and won the AWA title from Candi Devine in Las Vegas that December ... In 1988, Madusa defeated the legendary Fabulous Moolah and won a controversial verdict from Wendi Richter, whom she's never pinned cleanly. She also briefly managed fellow Minnesotan Curt Hennig *("Now you know who made him perfect")* ... Became the only woman to beat out men for a *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* award when she edged Chris Benoit for 1988 Rookie of the Year *("Aw, his poor little male ego must've been crushed!")* ... After losing the AWA title to Richter, she went to Japan to study martial arts and kick-boxing *("Wrestlers can't afford to get stale")* ... The move was a total success, as she became the first U.S. wrestler of her sex to gain popularity in the Orient ... Had a hit record and video in Japan, "Who's Madusa" *("Imagine a Madonna who can wrestle!")* ... Headed back to America in 1991, where she faced Vachon several times in Florida *("That barking lapdog needs to be put on a leash")* ... Briefly wrestled in the LPWA, but never won its title ... Joined WCW late in 1991, but rarely wrestled because competition was scarce ... Became The Dangerous Alliance's director of covert operations, where she attacked Sting, Rick Steamboat, and Scott Steiner and lost a bikini posedown to Missy Hyatt ... Eventually fell out with rulebreaking manager Paul E. Dangerously and humbled him in a one-on-one match *("He defines the term 'male chauvinist pig'")* ... Spent most of 1993 appearing on independent cards, but was signed by WWF in November and then changed her name ... Beat Heidi Lee Morgan in tourney final for revived title on December 13 in Poughkeepsie, New York ... Easily defeated Morgan, Debbie Combs, and Leilani Kai in title defenses, and wants the WWF to import some of Japan's top women for bouts *("America needs to see how good women's wrestling can be")* ... Began feuding with Vachon after WrestleMania X, and vows to dominate their impending series of matches *("That loony little Luna's gonna learn some lessons!")* □

ALUNDRA BLAYZE

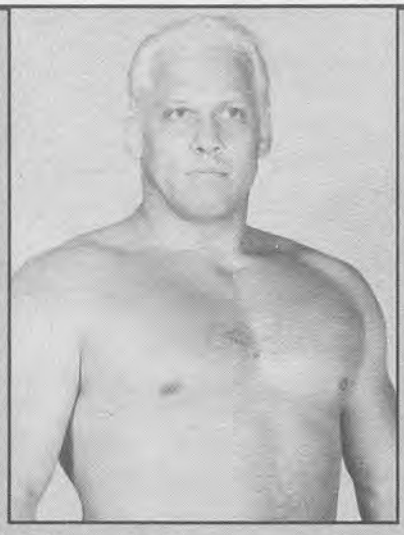
Where Are They NOW?

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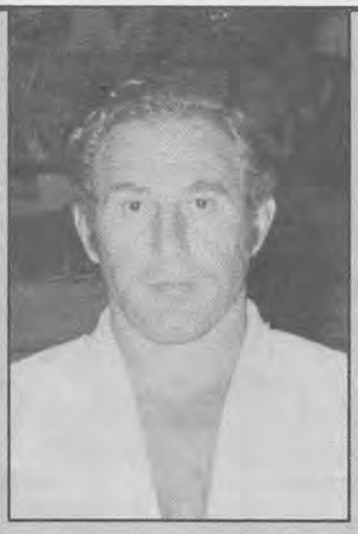
JUNE BYERS

This Houston native began her pro career in 1944, won the World Women's championship tournament in 1953, and later defeated the legendary Mildred Burke. She retired in 1964 after an auto accident crushed her kneecap. Byers is now a licensed real estate agent in Houston. She works out with weights and works with ceramics in her spare time. June, widow of famed promoter Sam Menacker, takes pride in her four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



BUDDY COLT

The one-time U.S. Marine was among the South's most despised rulebreakers until 1975, when he was forced to retire from injuries suffered in the plane crash that killed Bobby Shane. Colt then managed and did TV analysis with Gordon Solie for several years. He now owns a chemical distribution company in Tampa, Florida, where he owns three boats and frequently spends weekends on the Gulf of Mexico with his wife, Lorraine.



GENE LeBELL

He won several titles in the West and the South during the 1960s, but the former AAU national judo champion may be equally remembered as the referee for the 1976 boxing-martial arts match between Muhammad Ali and Antonio Inoki. He now works as a stuntman and actor in Los Angeles, and teaches judo and wrestling at his San Fernando Valley ranch. "I teach toughness," says LeBell, who still enjoys riding his motorcycle around Southern California.



DICK MURDOCH

This veteran remains active in several independent federations. He's most visible in SMW, where he frequently assists Jim Cornette in the manager's continuing battles with Commissioner Bob Armstrong and The Rock 'n' Roll Express. "Time has simply made me more intense," Murdoch says. "I'm still as dangerous as ever, and I think my wrestling of late has made that evident to everyone!"

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CONSUMER DISCLOSURE: No purchase/phone call required. To enter by mail, print/affix your name address, phone number and birthdate (no staples) on a standard USPS 19c postcard and mail to CCL Sweepstakes, 1650 Limekiln Pk., #400, Dresher, PA 19025. Open to US residents 13 yrs. and older. CA residents must be 18. Improper, incomplete and illegible entries are disqualified. Sweepstakes void in AR, GA, LA, MN, NJ, OR, VT and where prohibited by law. Odds of winning the grand prize depend on number of eligible entries received. One winner chosen by random drawing. Prize is 2 tickets to a concert in any city in the continental US of winner's choice, subject to availability, accomodations at a luxury hotel for 2 for one night's stay, roundtrip coach airfare for 2 to city where concert is being held, limousine transportation to and from airport and to and from concert, plus $1,000 cash. Approx. retail value of prize package: $2,500. One winner will be selected at random by Pine, Feinstein & Associates, Inc., an independent organization whose desicions are final. Sweepstakes starts 2/1/94 and ends 9/30/94. Phone calls must be received by 11:59pm, 9/30/94. Mail entries must be postmarked by 9/30/94 and received by 10/7/94. Callers to the 800 number will be provided with a calling card account #. Instructed to redial the 800 number and input their account # to enter sweepstakes. Touchtone phone required. Rotary callers will be referred to a 900 number at a cost of $2.99/min. Avg. call 3 min/$8.97. Caller bonus void in CA. Sweepstakes subject to Complete Official Rules. To get a copy of Complete Official Rules and/or name of winner, send a self-addressed stamped envelope indicating specific request to CCL Sweepstakes Rules, 1650 Limekiln Pk., #400, Dresher, PA 19025 (WA, CA, & VT residents need not affix postage). This promotion sponsored by Concert Connection, Ltd., 1650 Limekiln Pk., #400, Dresher, PA 19025. 215-641-0676.

NEWS FROM THE WR

DEVON, PA
BY JOE VINCENT



TOMMY CAIRO VS. SANDMAN



This was the highlight singles match at Eastern Championship Wrestling's first-ever card at the Valley Forge Music Fair. Cairo needed only about seven minutes to pin Sandman, but that's when the fun began. Following the pin, Peaches, Sandman's former cohort, came out and yelled at him. He was about to hit her with a chair when Cairo interceded. Sandman hit Cairo with the chair instead.

OTHER BOUTS: Crash the Terminator pinned Pitbull ... J.T. Smith beat Rockin' Rebel ... Jimmy Snuka defeated Tommy Dreamer in a cage match ... The Bruise Brothers beat Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond ... Shane Douglas pinned ECW heavyweight champion Terry Funk during an eight-man tag team cage match. Due to a prematch stipulation, Douglas was awarded Funk's belt.

HAMBURG, GERMANY
BY LUDWIG SCHAAF



STING VS. BIG VAN VADER



WCW completed its German tour with the finals of the inaugural European Cup tournament at the Sportshalle. Sting first dominated action, but his long-time rival staved off a scorpion deathlock and a "Stinger" splash. Vader then took charge, slamming Sting to the canvas. Later, Vader missed a moonsault and a sit-down splash, and Sting finally collected the pin with a splash off the top rope.

OTHER BOUTS: WCW World champion Ric Flair pinned U.S. champion Steve Austin ... Maxx Payne & Johnny B. Badd beat Harlem Heat when Badd pinned Kane ... Rick Steamboat pinned TV champion Lord Steven Regal, but not in the required 15 minutes ... 2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell defeated Paul Roma & Paul Orndorff when Bagwell pinned Roma.

PIKEVILLE, KY
BY LINDA NOBLE



TRACEY SMOTHERS VS. CHRIS CANDIDO

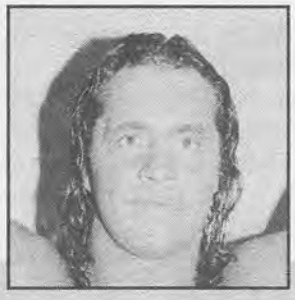


This Smoky Mountain ladder match on the Bluegrass Brawl II card at Pikeville College was fought for a $2,500 prize above the ring. Smothers hit the ladder with a flying forearm into the ladder, knocking Candido off his perch. Finally, both slugged it out at the top of the ladder—and it broke! They tumbled to the mat, and Smothers retrieved the envelope with referee Mark Curtis holding the ladder.

OTHER BOUTS: Killer Kyle beat Anthony Michaels ... Lance Storm defeated Steven Dunn ... Lance Storm beat Timothy Well ... In a handicap match, Jim Cornette & Bruiser Bedlam defeated Bob Armstrong ... Tony Anthony & "Dirty White Girl" Kimberly beat Brian Lee & Tammy Fytch ... In a loser-leaves-SMW bout, The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated The Heavenly Bodies to win the SMW tag team belts.

ESTLING CAPITALS

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND
BY PETER WATTS



BRET HART VS. OWEN HART



The WWF World champion repelled an assault from his younger brother to keep his title on the federation's British tour. Owen again went after Bret's vulnerable left knee, but the "Hitman" survived the vicious pounding and rallied behind a series of kneedrops, elbows, and backbreakers. The brothers battled for several more minutes before Owen gambled on a rollup and lost. Bret rolled through the maneuver and pinned "The Rocket" from a sitting position.

OTHER BOUTS: Kwang the Ninja defeated Koko B. Ware ... Earthquake defeated Irwin R. Schyster ... Bam Bam Bigelow (managed by Luna Vachon) defeated Tatanka when Irwin R. Schyster interfered ... Jeff Jarrett pinned Doink the Clown WWF World tag team champions The Quebecers beat Men on a Mission.

MEMPHIS, TN
BY PHIL SEAWRIGHT



JERRY LAWLER VS. ADAM BOMB



The USWA heavyweight champion put his title on the line against the WWF invader. Lawler eventually had Bomb under control, but the Memphis monarch was frustrated by Bomb putting his foot on the bottom rope to negate a potential pin. Shockingly, Harvey Wippleman decided to assist Lawler. He pushed Bomb's foot off the rope, and the referee made the three-count.

OTHER BOUTS: Super Mario beat Galaga ... Spellbinder beat Frank "The Tank" Parker ... The Spiders beat Reggie B. Fine & Doug Gilbert ... Don Bass & Jeff Gaylord beat USWA tag team champions The Moondogs by disqualification ... Southern champion Brian Christopher beat Tommy Rich by DQ ... Jerry Lawler, Brian Christopher, & Jimmy Valiant beat Tommy Rich, Troy Graham, & Doug Gilbert.

CLEMENTON, NJ
BY TIMOTHY A. WALKER



HACKSAW DUGGAN VS. ABBUDAH SINGH



You'd expect these two to brawl, and the fans at the WWA card at the Route 30 Mall were not disappointed. Action went back and forth, although Singh applied a chinlock and briefly had the upper hand. The two traded punches and clotheslines, and an especially vicious clothesline by Duggan flung Singh over the top rope. He retreated to the locker room, and Duggan won by countout.

OTHER BOUTS: Father Ed beat Stryker ... WWA heavyweight champion Frank Finnegan defeated junior heavyweight champion East L.A. by DQ when King Kong Bundy interfered ... Boy Gone Bad beat Rich Myers ... Misty Blue Simmes defeated Nasty Angel. Duane & Wayne Gill beat The Spiders to win the WWA tag team belts ... The Bushwhackers defeated The Super Jocks (managed by Eddie Reality)□



Matt Brock's Plain Speaking

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

CHICAGO, IL

Ric Flair is back. I have been involved in this racket long enough to know that a zebra doesn't change his stripes and people don't change. Take yours truly, for instance. A few years ago, the doctor said no cholesterol. Keep away from the hard stuff, so I did. It does not mean I liked it, but I did it. When the cholesterol went down, yours truly was back at the table in front of a juicy porterhouse. You can't teach an old dog new tricks. Remember that the next time you cheer a former rulebreaker or boo a former favorite. Instead of cheering and booing, look at the person and decide who he is. Here's a short list. Rick Steamboat: fan favorite. Sting: fan favorite. Bret Hart: rulebreaker. Razor Ramon: rulebreaker. Ric Flair: rulebreaker. Flair is arrogant, and the only time he didn't act that way was when he was scared out of his wits that his time in the ring was over. Yeah, that'll humble a man, but once Flair got over the scare, he returned to normal. It's like the man who thinks he has cancer and finds religion. The moment the doctor says it was a false alarm, the man goes back to normal. No religion. Same thing with Flair. He thought his career was winding down and he didn't want to be forgotten by the fans, so he started playing into their hands. He played the whole humble family-loving act at Starrcade '93. Then he beat Vader for the WCW World title and realized his career isn't nearly over. Welcome back the old Ric Flair, the *real* Ric Flair. Personally, I don't care about attitude. I just want to watch him wrestle. Warning to Hulk Hogan: Wrestle Flair at your own risk.



RIC FLAIR

PIKEVILLE, KY

Might as well face the facts: As long as there's a Jim Cornette, there'll be a Rock 'n' Roll Express, and as long as there's a Rock 'n' Roll Express, there'll be a Jim Cornette. They live for each other, like Yankees and Red Sox, Celtics and Lakers (don't worry, it'll happen again someday), and Islanders and Rangers. It's just the way things are. Cornette gets his incentive from Morton and Gibson, who get their incentive from Cornette. The invisible factors here are The Heavenly Bodies, who are merely Cornette's tools. Okay, so Cornette's tools aren't allowed to wrestle in Smoky Mountain anymore. They lost an SMW tag team title match to the Rock 'n' Rolls and were promptly booted out of town. Their crime: Cornette used his racket at the wrong time and changed the match. In retrospect, maybe it wasn't entirely Cornette's fault. He just can't help but interfere when Morton and Gibson are the targets, so he acted on impulse. Saw Cornette after the match and he wasn't hanging his



JIM CORNETTE

head. In fact, he was on the phone, I think with Mr. Fuji, talking about one of Yokozuna's upcoming matches in the WWF. It just wouldn't surprise me one bit if Cornette had his mind on Morton and Gibson.

NEW YORK, NY

I'm supposed to be covering wrestling, not lawsuits, but thanks to Vince McMahon and the trouble he got himself into, I'm going to be spending a lot of time over the next few months in stuffy courtrooms listening to lawyers arguing back and forth about absolutely nothing. Ever try to hear somebody in a courtroom? The echo makes it impossible. No wonder so many criminals get off. McMahon had better hope there's a strong echo in the federal courthouse in Brooklyn. Already he's off to a bad start. Jesse Ventura, now a broadcaster in WCW, sued McMahon for royalties on tapes and other merchandise and was awarded $810,000 by a federal jury in Minnesota. That's a pittance compared to what McMahon faces on those charges of illegal distribution of steroids. It's been determined the government can't seize Titan Tower, but if McMahon is found guilty, the WWF could nevertheless be in severe trouble. Do I care? No. I'm a journalist. I'm not paid to care. Of course, I'm a wrestling journalist and I'm not paid to sit in courtrooms. Unfortunately, my tax form says 1099-MISC and that means I'm a general contractor, which means I go where the money is. The money's in Brooklyn.

MEMPHIS, TN

Heard through the grapevine that Jerry Lawler and Brian Christopher were wrestling Tommy Rich and Eddie Gilbert in a piledriver match and decided I had to be there. Arrived at Mid-South Coliseum, saw three ambulances parked outside the building, and decided the rumors were true. Then I walked inside and saw four neck braces on the floor outside the trainer's room. Had to be the right place. So why was Lawler smiling? Probably because the damn fool is so confident, he couldn't imagine being piledrived by Rich or Gilbert. He should've given them more a little more credit. Lawler and Christopher won by DQ when Troy Graham interfered, but before that the match was an absolute war. Here are four men who absolutely hate each other, and isn't that what professional wrestling's all about? Not as many piledrivers as I anticipated actually happened, which made my trip somewhat of a waste of time, but there'll be other matches and maybe even a few broken necks. Sounds like another trip might be in order. □

10 MASTER RULEBREAKERS REVEAL

THE INS AND OUTS OF THE SCIENCE OF RULEBREAKING, COURTESY OF 10 EXPERTS AT THE CRAFT. THANKS TO THEIR CANDID COMMENTS, NOW YOU'LL KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR DURING A MATCH

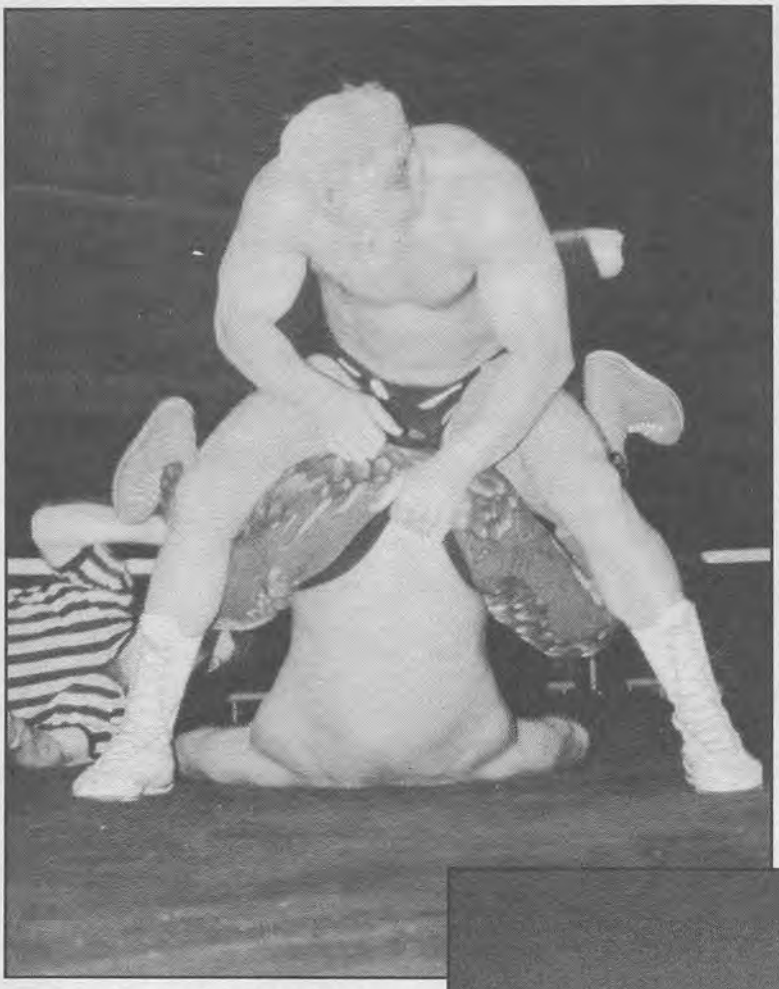
By Dave Rosenbaum

CHEATING, LIKE EVERYTHING else in wrestling, is a skill. When performed properly, it's an art form. The problem is that wrestlers who learn how to work the rules to their advantage never get as much respect as the fan favorites.

Whether or not you like rulebreakers, you must admit there are methods to their madness. They aren't ashamed of their ways. One would be hard-pressed to find a single rulebreaker who denies getting his kicks from cheating.

That's why we had no trouble rounding up 10 of the greatest rulebreakers—past and present—for this "instruction book" on how to cheat and get away with it. These nine men and one woman were amazingly candid and blunt, and their comments make for fascinating reading. For those who idolize rulebreakers, it's a once-in-a-lifetime primer. For supporters of fan favorites ... well, look at it as getting to know your enemy.

HOW TO CHEAT ...AND GET AWAY WITH IT!



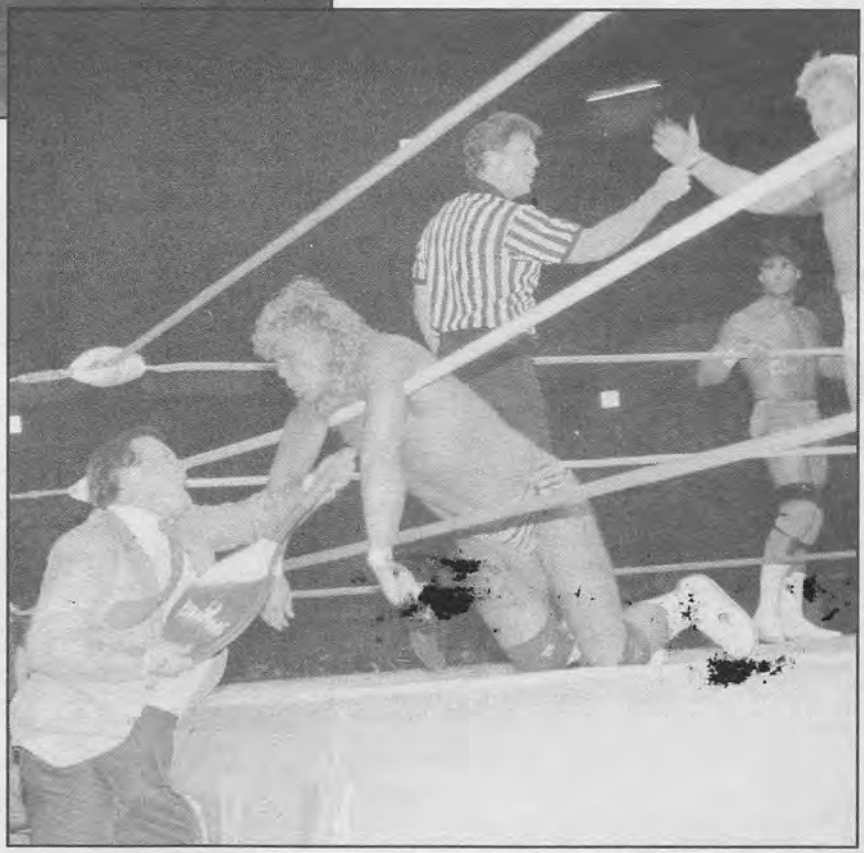
One way to cheat is to pull on your rival's shorts while the referee is on the mat making the count, as Steve Austin shows against Rick Steamboat. The extra leverage might just make all the difference in the world.

Steve Austin: "It's like anything else. You have to pick your spots. Think football players don't cheat? You should see all the holding that goes on on the line of scrimmage and the officials let most of it go. I'm sure Brian Pillman did more than his share, though he'd never admit it! Same thing in wrestling. You have to know what you can get away with. Forget about the rulebook. It doesn't exist. Referees can't call anything or else every match would end in a disqualification in the first minute. Some referees will let you get away with a lot, some won't let you get away with too much, so you just have to know the refs and what you can get away with. Then you have to push it just a little further."

Jim Cornette: "I wait until the referee turns his back and then sock my man's opponent with a tennis racket. Paul E. Dangerously does it with his cellular phone and Mr. Fuji carries around plenty of salt. We all have our little trademarks and the referees always think they can catch us, but there's going to come a time in the match when that ref has his back turned or he's knocked out and that's when James E. Cornette goes to work. You know, these referees must be stupid. What the heck do they think I carry a tennis racket to ringside for? I don't see any tennis matches going on. Do you?"

Eddie Gilbert: "Throw fire. The refs can't prove you did it because it's a known fact that humans can't throw fire. The best part about throwing fire is that the evidence burns up immediately and they can't convict you without evidence. If they try to look at the videotape replay, I just tell them it was a flashbulb going off. Who's going to prove me wrong? Nobody ever has!"

Jerry Lawler: "Break the rules? Heck, I've never broken a rule in my life! Stretched them? Yeah, I've done that plenty of times because



Tennis, anyone? Jim Cornette loves causing a racket with his racket when the referee's back is turned. Cornette unleashes his own kind of serve at Brian Pillman's expense.

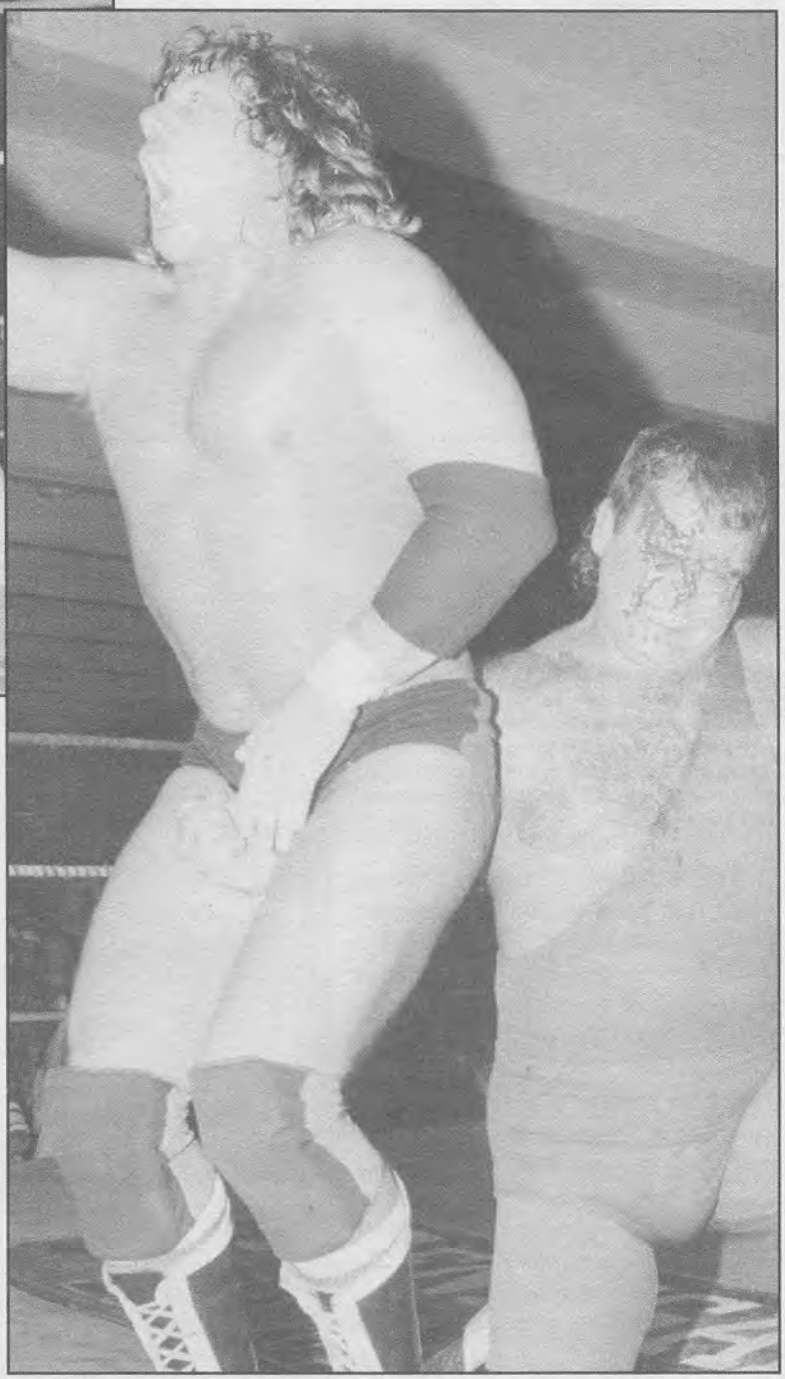


Jeff Jarrett is burned up, both literally and figuratively. He's the recipient of fire from Eddie Gilbert, who repeatedly gets away with this flaming tactic.

there's lots of room for stretching in wrestling, especially when you're 'The King' of the sport. You tell me how a referee can tell the difference between a closed- and open-fist punch when it's delivered in a split-second? Most referees can't tell whether you've intentionally thrown your opponent over the top rope. How the heck can he disqualify you for piledriving your opponent on the floor of the arena when your opponent was there first? That's a good one! Most of these so-called fan favorites, especially guys like Bret Hart, break plenty of rules themselves, so I just do what they did. Monkey see, monkey do!"

Brian Lee: "Three keys: The three-second rule, the five-second rule, and the 10-second rule. I just love wrestling because it's the only sport that lets you get away with something illegal as long as you don't do it for too long! But how do you think my opponent feels if I choke him four times in 10 seconds with only a one- or two-second breather in between? Not too good, that's how! I take full advantage of that little rule. It's the best one in the sport!"

Fabulous Moolah: "Hon, being a lady was always my advantage. Those stupid referees couldn't believe that a lady would do some of the things I did, so I just said to them something like, 'Little ol' me? I'd never do something like that!' Then I'd flash them a smile or a wink and



Not only is this a closed-fist punch—but look where it's going! Jerry Lawler says most referees can't spot the difference in a split-second. Tom Prichard can definitely feel it, however.

the match would go on. Men are fools when it comes to women. You know, dearie, my career might not have gone half as long if there were female referees."

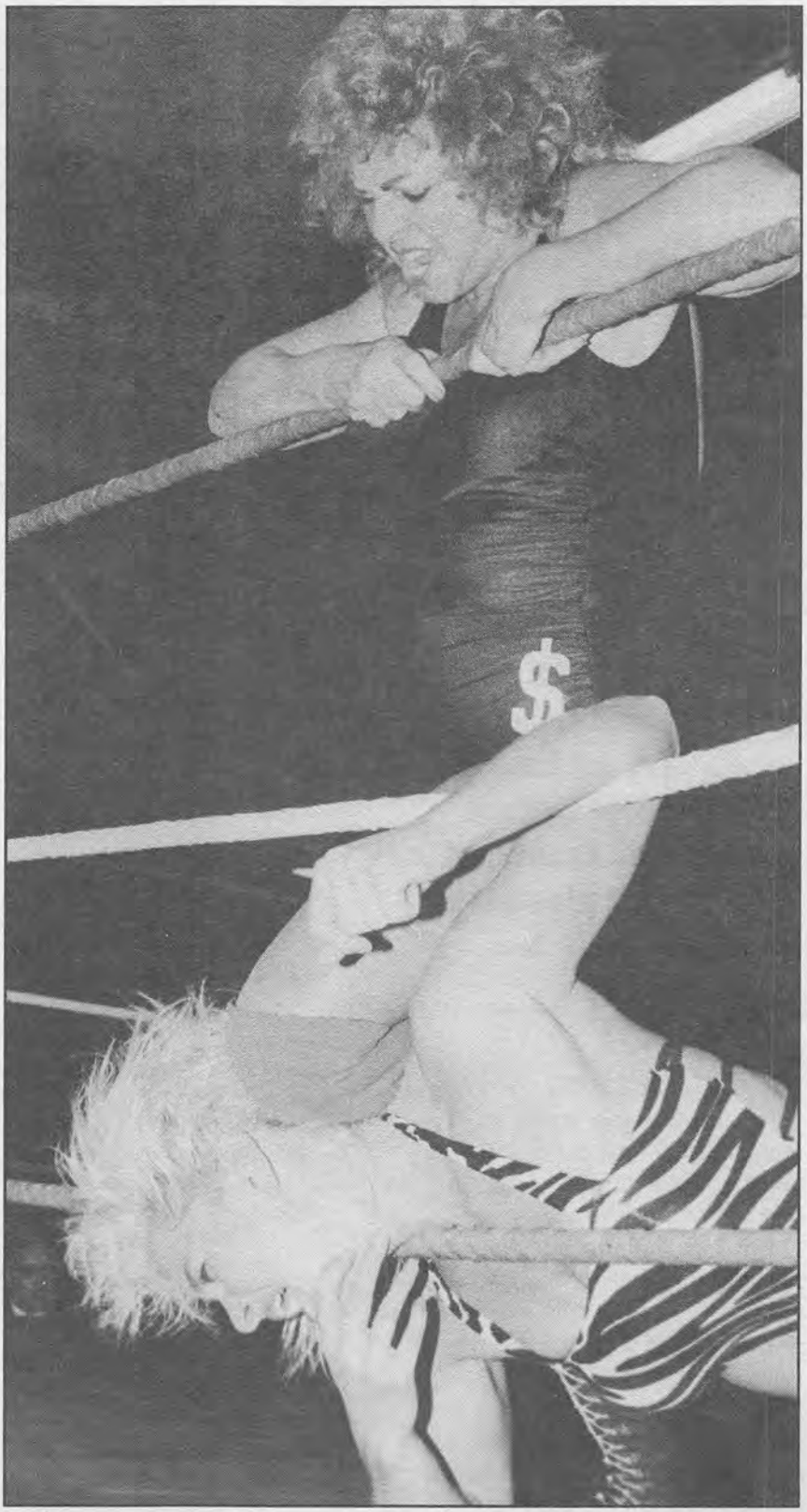
Harley Race: "If you're going to carry a foreign object, make sure you put it in a place where the referee isn't going to look, like in the bottom of your shoe or, better yet, leave it with your manager. Then, when you use the object, use it once, unless the referee gets knocked out, in which case use it until it breaks. Use it once and the ref might say, 'What happened?' He'll be looking for it again, but it won't come again. That's the big thing: Don't overdo it. Do it once, and make it count."

Rick Rude: "Distract the refs and then strike. Let them think they're seeing what you want them to see, then do something else. You have to be smart, and I'm the smartest in the game. These refs think they can watch me at all times, and they can, but they can't watch everything I'm doing. Nobody can do that. Give 'em a slap and sneak in a knee to the groin. Always have two things going on at once. This'll work every time until they come up with a two-referee system, and then I'll just have to come up with something else."

Jerry Sags: "Just do whatever the heck you want to do. If they disqualify Brian [Knobs] and me, who cares? We've got the belts and they can't take them away from us. That's my answer. Raise hell, do what you want, let them try and stop you. They can't."

Jesse Ventura: "Let's face it, the rules of wrestling only exist to make the federations look good. If they had their way, every wrestling match would be an all-out brawl with no referees, because that's what sells tickets. The thing every so-called rulebreaker learns early is that the sport can't do without him and if the referees call things too close, you're going to be putting people to sleep. There's no way Ric Flair would have been half as famous as he is today if he wasn't a rulebreaker his whole life. That was the key for me. They needed us more than we needed them, because we could always change our ways, and they didn't want that." □

Fabulous Moolah's ladylike ways always disguised her nefariousness inside the squared circle. Male referees were invariably fooled, much to the dismay of opponents like Madusa Miceli.



A WALK DOWN BADSTREET ... OR MEMORY LANE?

THE FREEBIRDS REUNITE

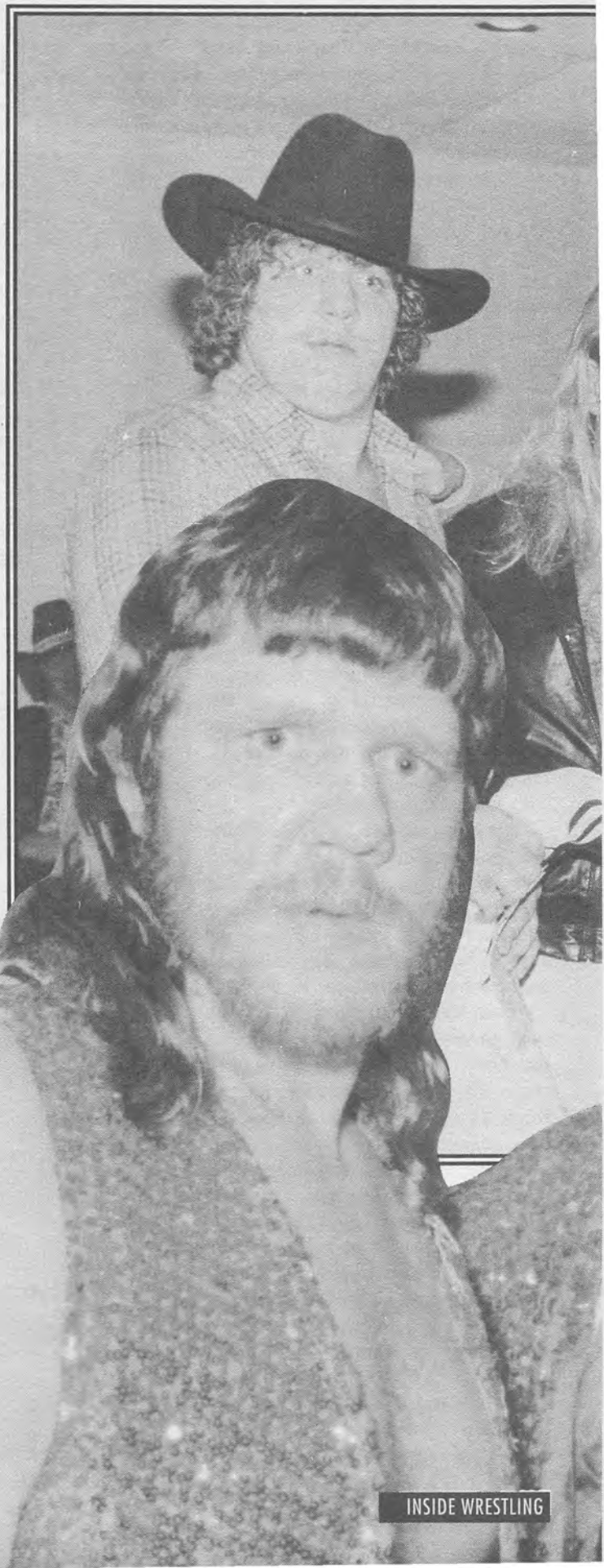
Michael Hayes, Terry Gordy, Buddy Roberts, and Jim Garvin are most proud of having been Freebirds. When they got back together in Dallas recently, they proved that Badstreet is more than a place, it's an attitude

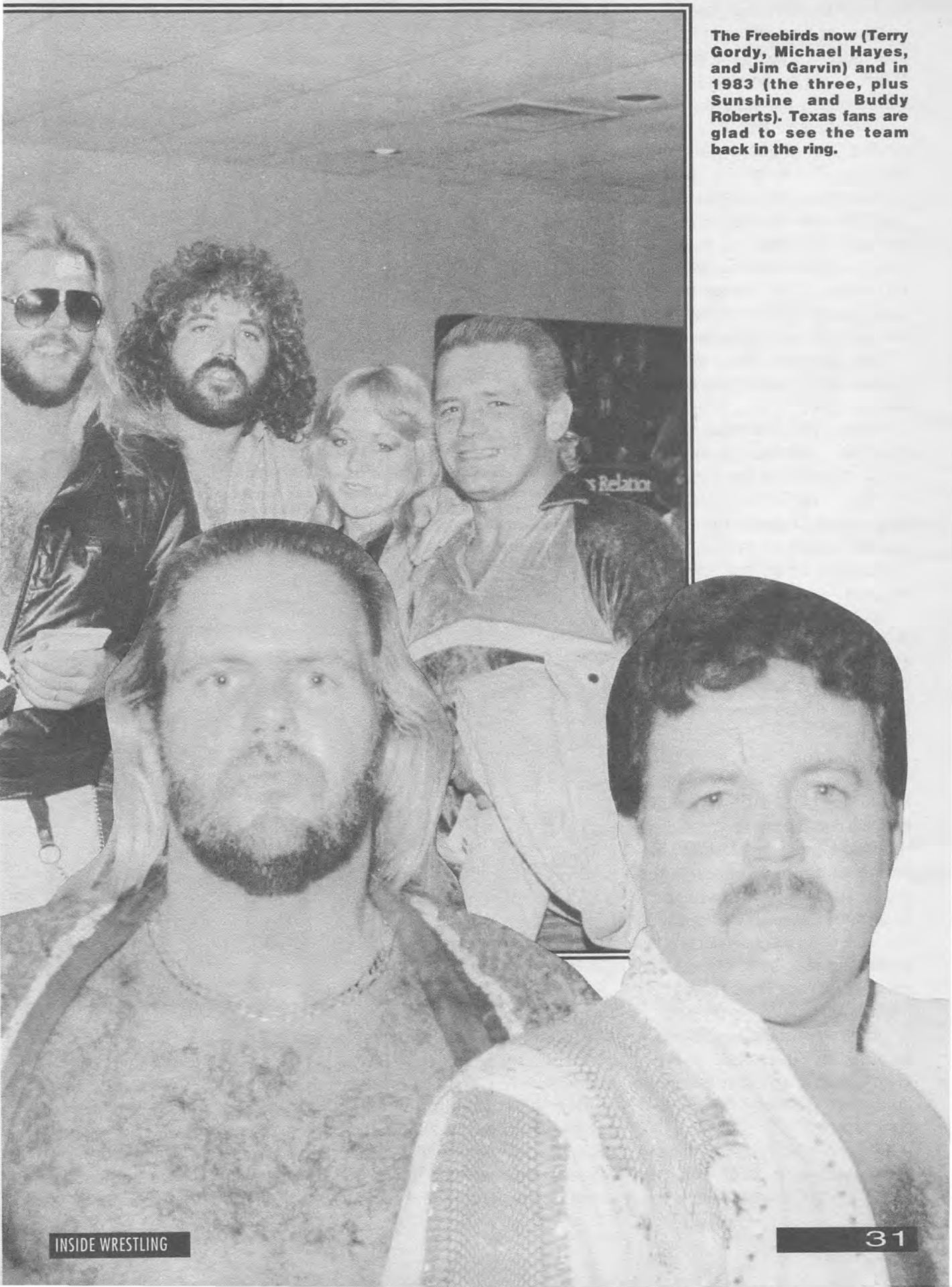
By Andy Rodriguez

WHEN MICHAEL HAYES opened the trunk of his rental car, he took out one fishing pole, one set of golf clubs, and one pair of brass knuckles.

For him, fishing and golf are pastimes. Wrestling, though, is a passion.

Hayes and most of the other Freebirds had returned to Dallas for the first time in years. The city was the site of some of their greatest matches and triumphs, particularly during their lengthy





The Freebirds now (Terry Gordy, Michael Hayes, and Jim Garvin) and in 1983 (the three, plus Sunshine and Buddy Roberts). Texas fans are glad to see the team back in the ring.

feud with the Von Erich family.

"That seems like a long, long time ago," Hayes said wistfully. "There won't be another feud like that. Probably a good thing, too."

When he said that, Hayes envisioned a triumphant reunion in Dallas for The Freebirds. He knew a lot of fans and wrestlers never cared for the Freebirds' tactics, but expected they all would be glad to take another walk down Badstreet, glad to see he and Terry Gordy together in the Big D for the first time in eight years.

Gen. Skandor Akbar wasn't a member of the welcoming committee.

"Makes no difference to me," said the controversial manager when informed of the impending reunion. "They were overrated to begin with. I gave them their chance to have me as their manager, but they turned me down cold. A bigger mistake was never made."

"We've got no quarrel with Akbar," Hayes countered. "We can forget all that went down in the past. If he keeps his nose out of our business I don't see any problem."

As it turned out, it was the *'Birds* who ended up interfering in *Akbar's* affairs. But they claim they did it for all the right reasons.

Akbar's latest find, Moadib, was losing to Jeep Swenson when Akbar threw fire in Swenson's face. After Swenson was declared the winner by disqualification, the Global tag team champions, John Hawk and Black Bart, hit the ring and started beating on Swenson.

Unwilling to stand by and watch a four-on-one assault, Hayes, Gordy, and Jim Garvin rushed in and saved Swenson from further punishment.

Garvin—who left wrestling to become an airline pilot—returned to the squared circle earlier this year when he escorted a wheelchair-bound Hayes to WCW's SuperBrawl IV, saying Hayes was injured and couldn't wrestle Johnny B. Badd as scheduled. WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel said Garvin had to wrestle in his place; "Gorgeous" Jimmy lost to Badd.

"Great way to get the fans on our side, huh?" Garvin joked moments after the Swenson incident. "Seriously, we had to do it, man. We're not looking to make enemies right off the bat, but we won't let guys like Akbar get away





Gordy is locked and loaded against Black Bart during action from Dallas (above). It revived memories of days when Hayes and Gordy double-teamed Kerry Von Erich (below) during a feud with the Von Erich family.

with murder, either."

"Did you see that?" Akbar screamed. "Did you see that? Let it be noticed who made the first move here! Me and my men, we're not gonna let Hayes and his crew get off easy! Those 'Birds are about to get their feathers plucked!"

It wasn't a replay of the old Freebird-Von Erich feud, but it was a serious encounter for the reunited 'Birds. Even Buddy Roberts, who did not join his cohorts in Dallas, said he could feel the tension.

"Heck, yeah, I wish I was back there with the guys," he said. "I may be back soon, anyway. This is what it means to be a Freebird. Everybody wants to take a shot at the legends—and make no mistake, we are legends. We've done and seen it all. The guys are gonna do just great without me, but I'll be there if they need me. Hey—seems Akbar's forgotten what it's like to go face-to-face with a Freebird!"

In the next Freebird confrontation with Akbar and company, Gordy and Garvin took on Hawk and Bart. Hayes stood in his men's corner as Akbar did the same for the champions. Again, Akbar lost the match for his side when he interfered. Though they won by disqualification, the 'Birds were convinced a tag team championship was on its way.

"I've wrestled the best tag guys in the world," Gordy asserted, "and these guys don't match up. I'd say this reunion wouldn't be much of a success if we didn't at least take their belts."

Garvin smiled. "I think I showed what I can do when given some time to prepare for a match."

Hayes, though, insisted the tag title wasn't as important as the fact that The Freebirds were back as a major player on the tag team scene.



Now an airline pilot, Garvin is used to taking rides. But this time, John Hawk is at the throttle.

"We've all heard the whisperings about how we were washed up, about how we were a team of the '80s who had no place in the '90s," Hayes said. "Anybody with half a brain knew what a crock that was, and now we've proven to the rest of the doubters that the Freebird name still stands for something in this business."

Of course, the 'Birds haven't silenced *all* the doubters.

"Nothing's been settled yet!" Akbar claimed. "Not a thing has been proved! I've decided to do this sport a favor and stop Hayes and his flunkies before they get out of control. They came to Global hoping to reestablish themselves, but I'm telling you, they will leave looking to retire forever!"

Akbar speaks boldly, but wrestlers in every federation know The Freebirds deserve to be taken seriously. Their success in Global was the buzz in locker rooms around the globe.

That buzz was especially loud in WCW, which is rumored to be The Freebirds' next stop. Hayes acknowledges the possibility.



A drained and battered Garvin stumbles back to his corner and the support of a waiting Hayes, while Gordy looks for a tag and a chance to enter the ring.

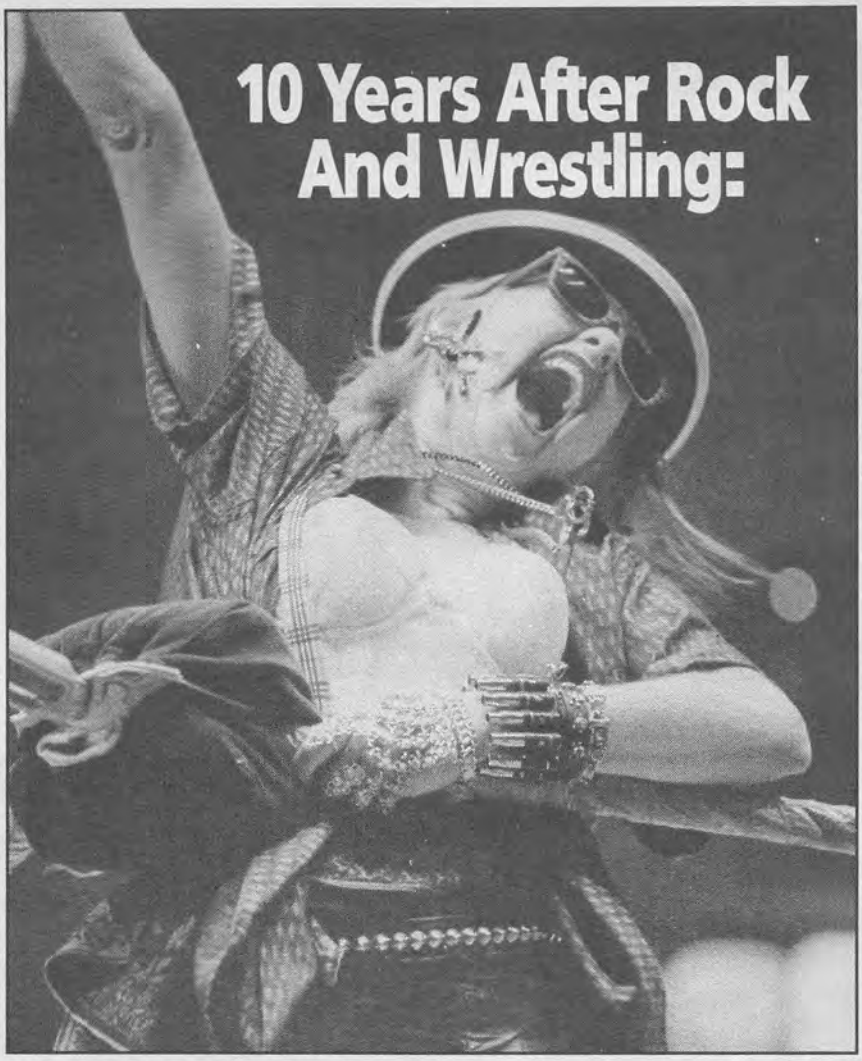
"Boy, would it feel good to bring the 'Birds back to WCW," he said. "But let's don't get too far ahead of ourselves. Me and the boys still aren't back to 100 percent. We need some more practice."

Akbar and his men are "practice"?

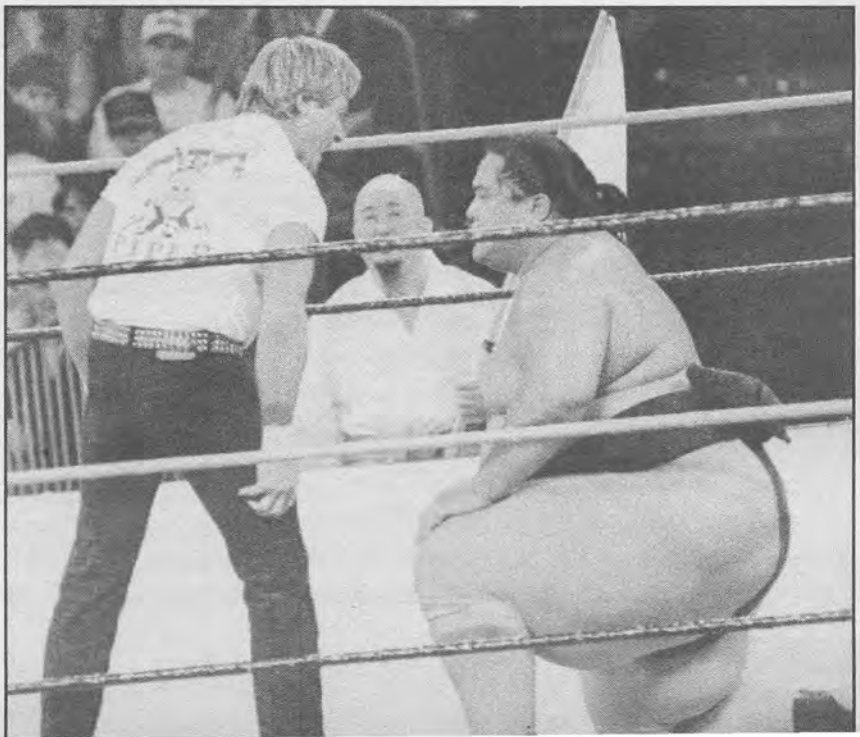
Sounds like Badstreet talk. □

10 Years After Rock And Wrestling:

Roddy Piper has made a habit of retiring and unretiring, and he's ready to do it again. The "Rowdy Scot" wants to inject some excitement into the WWF, which he says hasn't been the same since the days of rock 'n' wrestling



At WrestleMania I in 1985, the rock 'n' wrestling connection was in full swing, with singer Cyndi Lauper (above) in attendance. Roddy Piper battled Mr. T as part of a tag team bout at that event (opposite page). Piper returned to the WWF as guest referee for the Bret Hart-Yokozuna WWF World title match at WrestleMania X.



By Dave Rosenbaum

RODDY PIPER LIKES to think of wrestling history in two parts: B.P. and A.P. It doesn't take a genius to figure out what those abbreviations stand for.

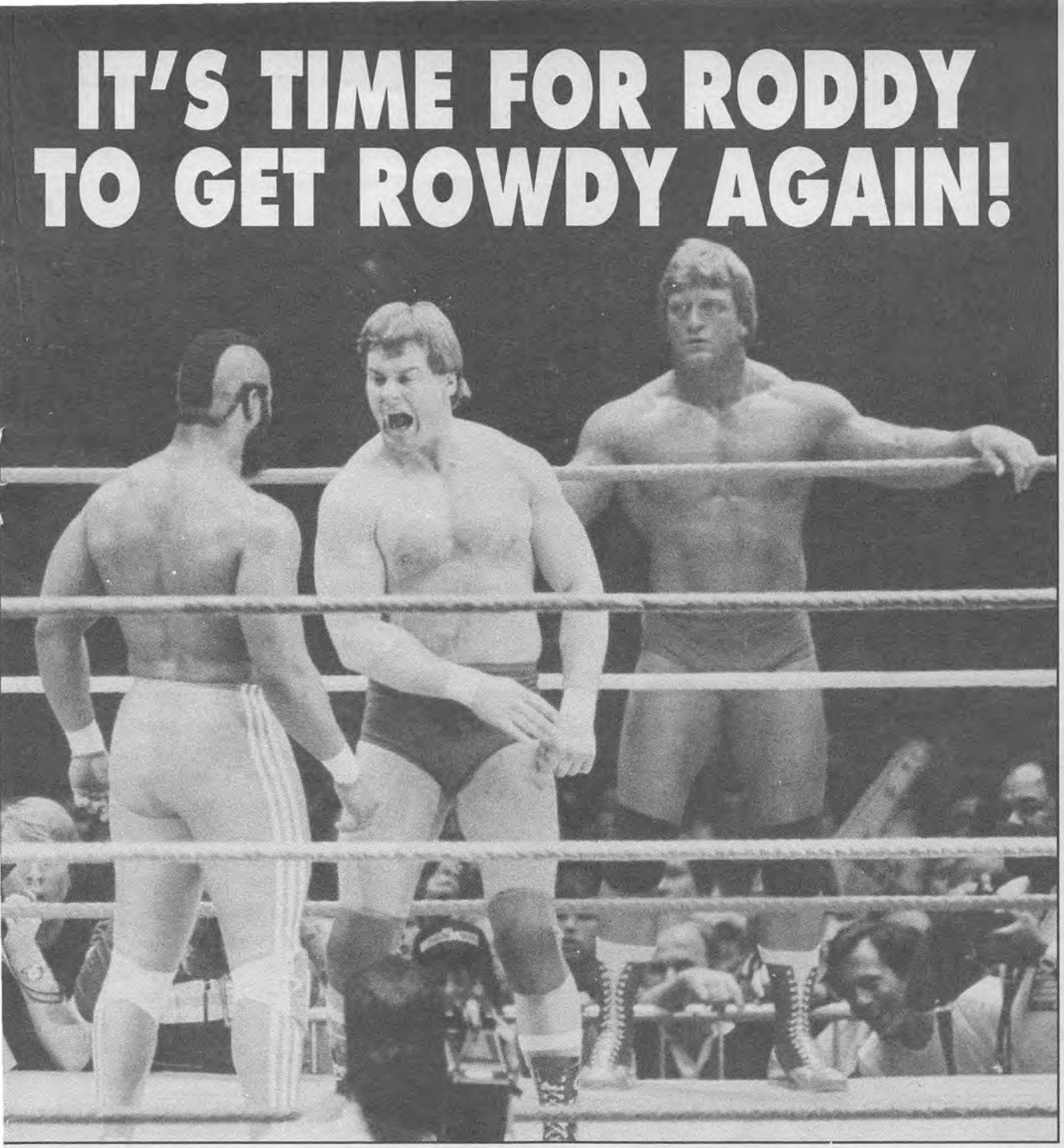
B.P. is Before Piper.

A.P. is After Piper.

Of course, there have been several After Pipers, the most recent of which occurred in 1992. Piper lost the WWF Intercontinental title to Bret Hart at WrestleMania VIII and re-retired shortly afterward.

The "Rowdy Scot" has been a busy man since then. Piper made four movies this year and is appearing on two episodes of the TV series *RoboCop*. Although

IT'S TIME FOR RODDY TO GET ROWDY AGAIN!



Piper was a brash, obnoxious, loud-mouthed rulebreaker for most of his career, he left the sport in style and has done plenty of charity work.

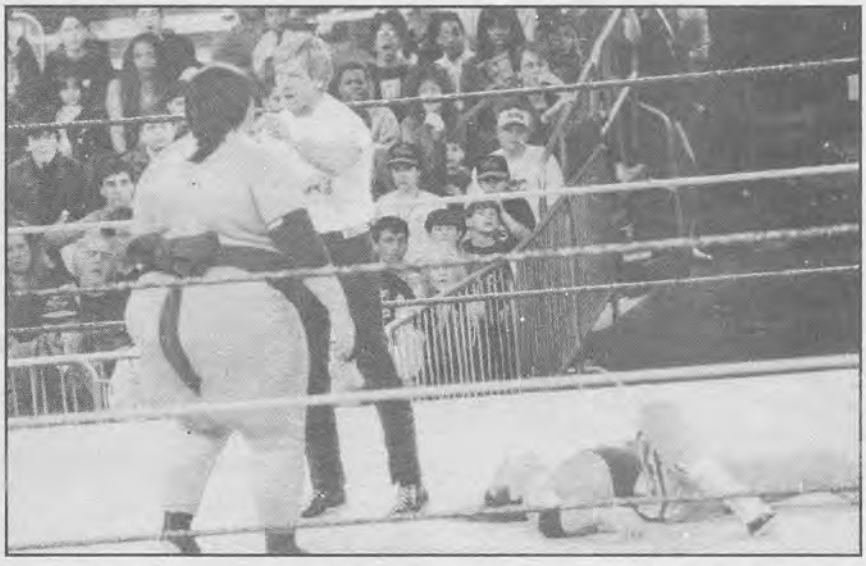
But sometime in the early spring, Piper got that itch again. It told him that it was time to consider a return to the ring.

"It happened right around WrestleMania X," said Piper, who did an outstanding job as guest referee for the Bret Hart vs. Yokozuna World title match. "When I heard the crowd cheering me, that was something. It proved they hadn't forgotten. Then, when I was in the ring refereeing the match, I realized I should've been wrestling. I could've beaten either one of those guys."

There was something else. Piper looked over the WrestleMania X card and noticed something was missing: Hulk Hogan. He looked further and saw no Ric Flair, no Ultimate Warrior, no Sid Justice. He saw a federation that suddenly lacks star quality and needs a marquee name.



Piper keeps an eye on the action at the Yokozuna-Hart match (above), and has words with the sumo star (below). He says he can beat either wrestler—or new Intercontinental champion Diesel, for that matter.



At that point, he decided it was time to get rowdy again.

"When I wrestled Bret Hart at WrestleMania VIII, it was an okay fight, but for the first time in my career I didn't give 100 percent," Piper said. "I didn't feel like wrestling Hart, and I didn't have that killer instinct. Any idiot could've seen that. If I wanted to beat Hart, I would've blasted him with the timekeeper's bell instead of trying that lame sleeper.

"I didn't care. I wanted out."

It wasn't the first time. It probably won't be the last. Piper's frequent desire to return to the ring is matched only by his just-as-frequent desire to leave it. Perhaps the publicity-loving Piper loves the commotion and attention that's inevitably attached to retiring and un-retiring. Magic Johnson undoubtedly loves it, too.

Even so, Piper speaks of his comeback in general—and sometimes reluctant—terms. He enjoys making movies and TV shows and is heavily involved in fundraising for a children's hospital in Toronto. That goes back to Piper's youth, when he ran away from home and stayed in a hostel next door to the hospital. Piper doesn't want to leave that life behind. That's why a comeback, like his retirements, wouldn't be permanent.

"I just go day to day," Piper said. "I can't worry about the future. I'm having too much fun in the present."

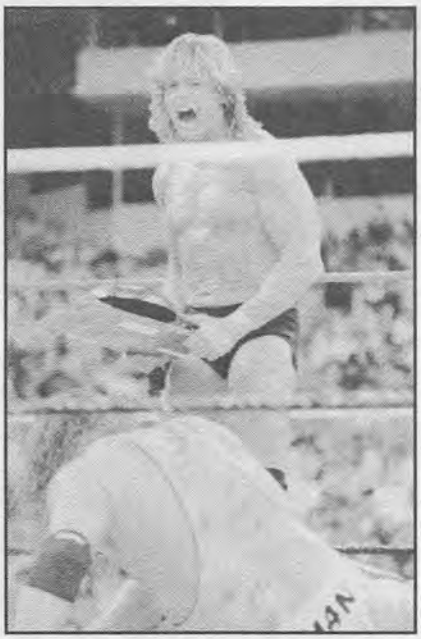
But that fun could very well include a full-scale comeback. Piper is, after all, absolutely convinced that the WWF needs him.

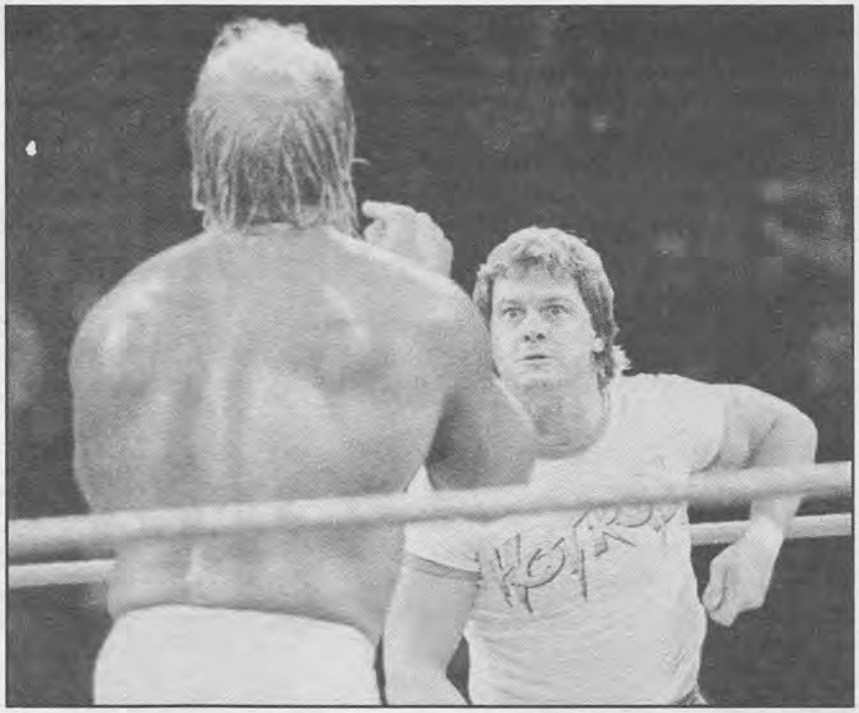
"The best match in history was the one where me and [Paul] Orndorff wrestled Hulk and Mr. T at WrestleMania I," Piper said. "That was it, that was WrestleMania, and it's been downhill ever since. It won Match of the Year, and it should've been Match of the Century. Me and Hogan, we made wrestling what it was. He gets most of the credit, but I deserve just as much. I filled the Garden as much as he did."

The rock 'n' wrestling era, when the sport appeared on MTV and returned to network television, was a memorable time. Wrestling's popularity peaked and Piper became a household name. If not for rock 'n' wrestling, there never would have been a WrestleMania. Piper was its grand promoter.

"Vince [McMahon] did a great job, but I gave him a lot of help," Piper said. "Me and Hogan were to wrestling what Frazier and Ali

Perhaps Piper's biggest wrestling regret is that he didn't use the timekeeper's bell to put away Hart at WrestleMania VIII. Hart rallied to beat him for the Intercontinental title.





Piper and Hulk Hogan were keen rivals for years, but in 1986 Piper came to Hogan's rescue during the "Hulkster's" feud with Paul Orndorff.



If Piper returns to wrestling, it will probably be on a limited basis. He's built a substantial acting career, including a starring role alongside Meg Foster in the acclaimed 1988 thriller, *They Live*.

were to boxing. You never knew what was going to happen when we wrestled. People were always waiting to see what I'd do next."

They're still waiting.

Piper was one of two special referees at WrestleMania X. The other, Curt Hennig, had a far rougher time of it, disqualifying Lex Luger after he shoved him. Later, Luger and "Mr. Perfect" met face-to-face in a hallway, where Lex said of the DQ, "It's bogus and you know it."

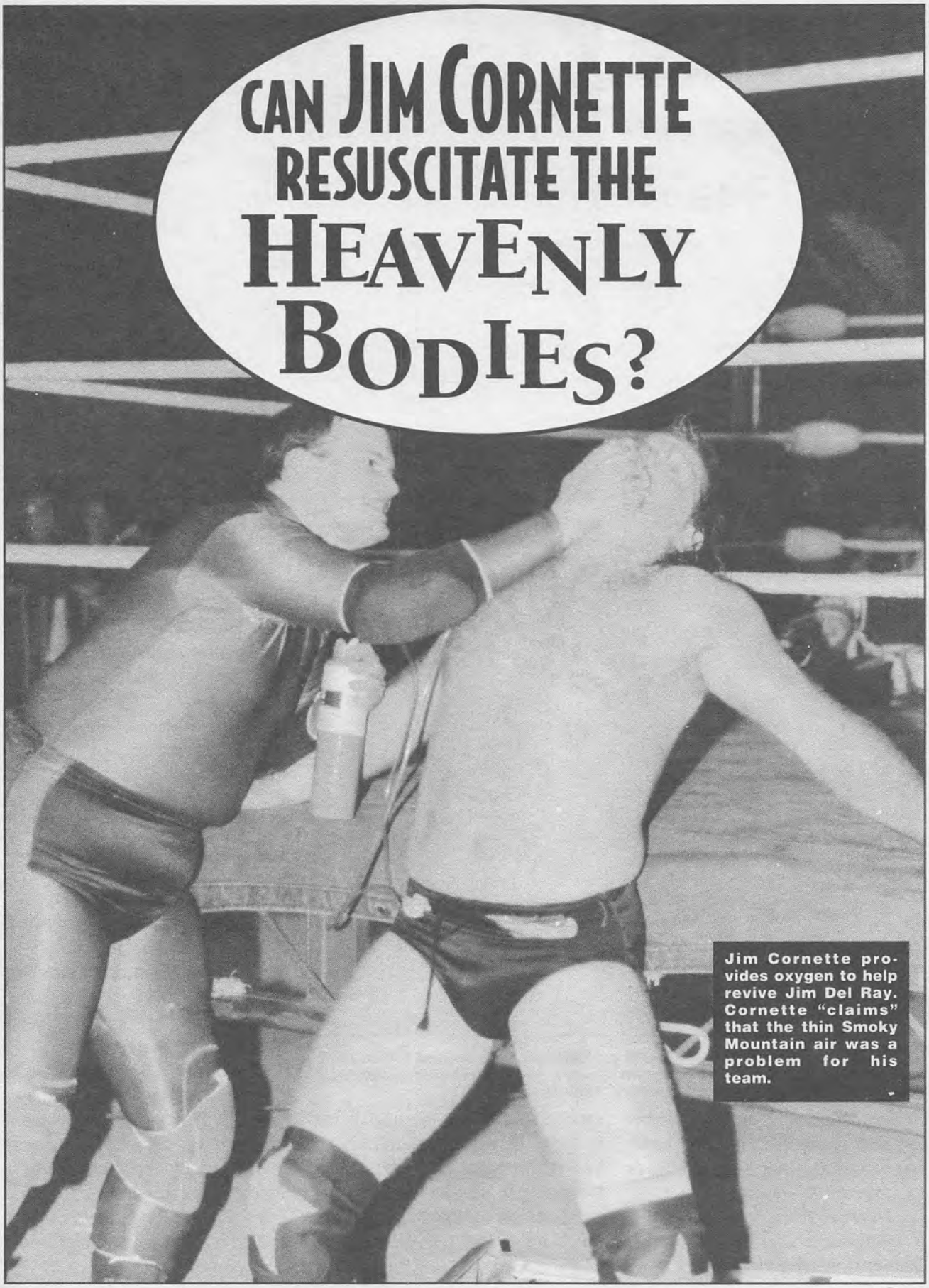
"That's where Luger was wrong and Hennig was right," Piper said. "Watch the tape. Curt made the right decision, and Lex knows it, too. He was just mad at himself for losing control of his emotions and blowing the biggest opportunity of his life."

Piper has his mind set on beating Hart. The WrestleMania VIII match still annoys him—Piper is mad at himself for not giving a full effort—and the prize for beating Hart has grown. The "Hitman" is the WWF World champion.

"I can beat Hart and I can beat [Intercontinental champion] Diesel, no problem," Piper said. "Just put the plug in and 'Rowdy' Roddy's back in action again. Get me into that ring and watch things happen. Hart shouldn't have a false sense of security, because I'm always lurking somewhere in the background."

It's time for Piper to stop lurking and start working. Get rowdy, Roddy—now! □

CAN JIM CORNETTE RESUSCITATE THE HEAVENLY BODIES?



Jim Cornette provides oxygen to help revive Jim Del Ray. Cornette "claims" that the thin Smoky Mountain air was a problem for his team.

By Chris Bernucca

THE MEDIA THRONG began the walk to the locker room. No one was in any hurry to get there. After all, waiting would be Jim Cornette, wrestling's mouth that roared.

Cornette would have plenty to say after this match. The Heavenly Bodies, who had dominated the tag team rankings of Smoky Mountain Wrestling for more than a year, had just wrestled their last SMW match. Much to the delight of the crowd at the Pikeville College gym in Kentucky, Tom Prichard and Jim Del Ray were beaten by arch-rivals The Rock 'n' Roll Express in a stipulation bout where the losers were to leave the federation for good.

But something was wrong here. Cornette's booming voice could not be heard through the locker room door. There was no tirade against his wrestlers or the referee or the commissioner. The door swung open, and there was a very calm Cornette.

"Come on in, guys," he said, almost matter-of-factly. "I guess you have some questions."

Cornette was being cordial after a disappointing defeat. Could this actually be happening?

A reporter finally spoke. "Jim, I was wondering, what—"

"I'll answer all your questions, but let me say something before you guys start," Cornette interrupted. "We lost tonight, and I'm ticked off as all hell. I hate losing, you guys know that, especially to [Rick] Morton and [Robert] Gibson." He was starting to get animated just by saying those despised names, yet the anticipated eruption never occurred.

"But as the best manager in this sport, I'm never unprepared. I knew this day was coming, and so did my boys. Just because we lost tonight, it doesn't mean it's over for The Heavenly Bodies. In fact, it's just beginning. Mark my words, Smoky Mountain's loss will be the WWF's gain."

Cornette went on to explain that he and the Bodies were headed for the WWF, where they hope to contend for the World title currently held by The Quebecers. Of course, the WWF is not unfamiliar ground for Cornette and his men. Less than two weeks before, they had beaten The Bushwhackers at WrestleMania X.

"We had nothing left to prove in SMW," Cornette said. "We beat the hell out of the Rock 'n' Rolls so many times, it was getting boring. If we had won tonight, who was going to challenge us? We were headed for the WWF regardless of the outcome, though if we'd won it might have only been on a part-time basis, like before. So the way I see it, tonight was a can't-lose situation for us."

Banished from Smoky Mountain,

Jim Cornette and The Heavenly Bodies

are headed for the WWF.

Will the change in federations

breathe new life into the former champions?

Or is Cornette just blowing more hot air?

A reporter asked Cornette if he wasn't just trying to put a positive spin on a disappointing outcome. You could see the blood begin to boil beneath the manager's skin.

"Go ahead, ask that question now!" Cornette screamed. "But just make sure you come back and ask it in six months, when we're the WWF World champions and The Rock 'n' Roll Express are still wrestling against Chris Candido and Brian

Lee. We're the best tag team in wrestling, and we're going to prove it against the best! Now get outta here. I'll see you guys on national television!"

With that, Cornette—back to his old ornery self—cleared all the reporters out of the locker room and slammed the door. He's hoping that when one door closes, another opens.

Yes, he and The Heavenly Bodies are headed for the WWF, where they are certain to receive much more exposure and a chance to showcase all their talents against stiffer competition. (The Bodies will also briefly tour Japan, although Cornette won't be able to accompany them. "If the Steiners can visit Japan and do well, there's no reason Tom and Jim can't do even better over there—even without me," the manager said.)

But joining the WWF may not necessarily be a good thing. Prichard and Del Ray haven't been themselves lately, and several WWF losses could permanently destroy their confidence. Without the friendly confines of Smoky Mountain to fall back on, the duo could be left in career limbo.

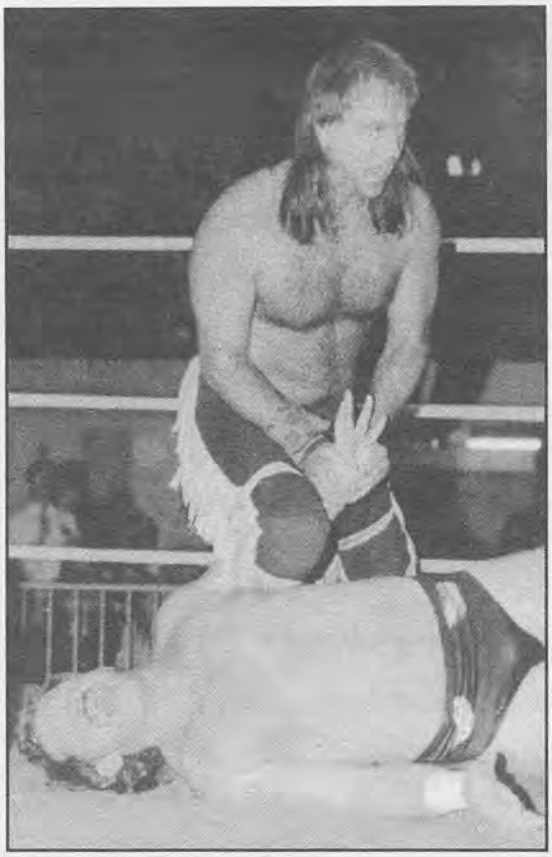
Cornette is confident that won't be the case. He believes his men were growing tired of the lack of competition in SMW, and negotiated the WWF deal in order to keep them sharp. Cornette feels that a new federation, new opponents, new arenas, and a new prize to pursue will snap Prichard and Del Ray out of their doldrums.

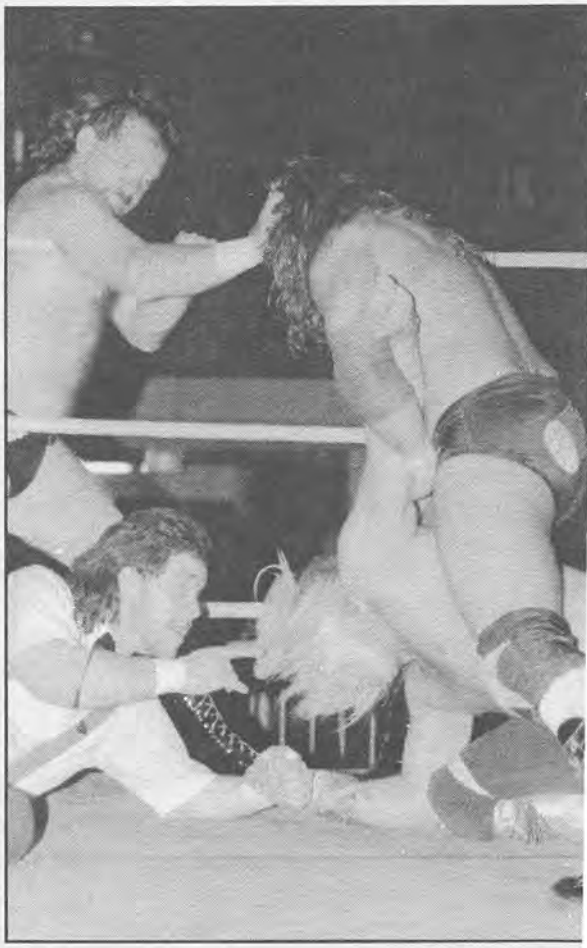
"Also," said Cornette, "Tom and Jim sometimes have trouble with the lighter air in the Smoky Mountain region. I'd often have to give them oxygen to revive them. Most WWF cards are held in cities closer to sea level."

"This wasn't a contingency plan," Prichard explained. "We were going to the WWF whether or not we beat the Rock 'n' Rolls. We'll just be spending all of our time there, instead of half-and-half. Based on what we've done before, we know we can win there."

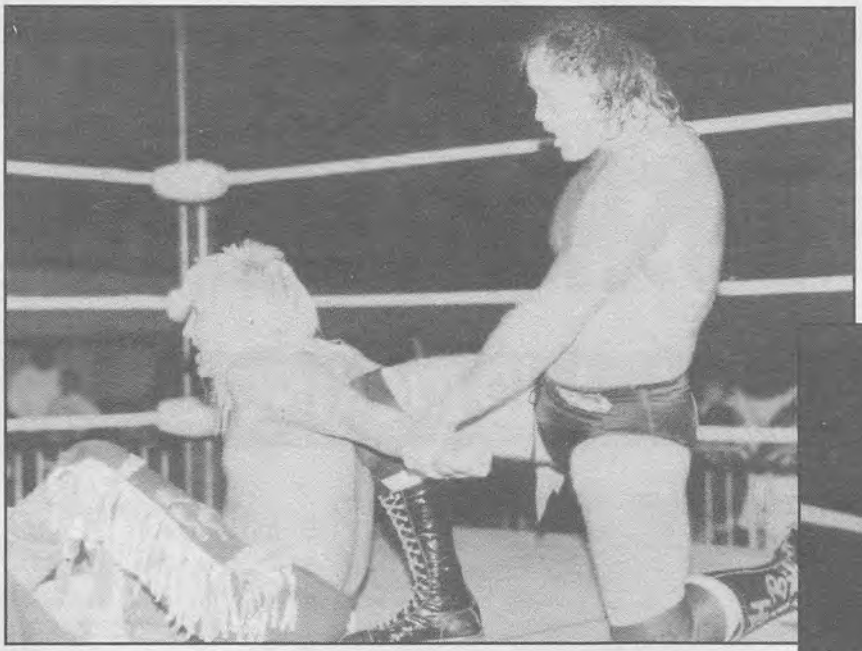
Prichard makes a good point. Last summer, he and Del Ray gave Rick and Scott Steiner all they could handle in a pair of matches in Michigan. The Bodies actually stole the belts from the brothers, who at the time were tag team champions.

Cornette is also familiar the WWF. He helped Mr. Fuji keep Yokozuna atop the federation for

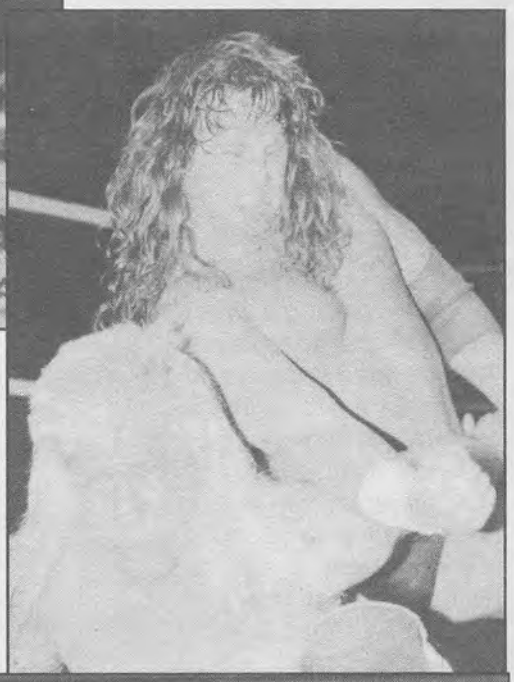




Robert Gibson twists Jim Del Ray's wrist, keeping a close on the enemy corner, where Tom Prichard is prepared to interfere (left). Del Ray and Tom Prichard double-team Rick Morton, while a cocky Cornette looks for approval from the stands (below).



Del Ray locks Morton in a crucifix during one of their intense battles that preceded their loser-leaves-the-federation cage match.



Prichard applies tremendous pressure on Morton's left arm (below). When the Rock 'n' Rolls won the one match that mattered most, even some of their most loyal supporters were surprised.

more than nine months until his loss to Bret Hart at WrestleMania X. His presence in the WWF has allowed Cornette to scout opponents for The Heavenly Bodies. At the same time, though, his frequent appearances at ringside for Yokozuna may have detracted from his managerial duties with the Bodies.

"Jim's back in our corner again," said Del Ray. "With him, Tom and me should have no trouble winning the WWF title."

Given the troubles The Quebecers have had, Del Ray could be right. Twice, Jacques and Pierre have been upset in title matches, only to regain the belts from their inexperienced foes just days later. Should they slip up against The Heavenly Bodies, winning back the belts may not be so easy.

Cornette knows this better than anyone. He also knows that the Bodies have to get off to a quick start in the WWF. An early loss to another contending team could spell the end of one of the better tag teams of the 1990s. Cornette is hoping the WWF will provide a new beginning for his tag team. If it doesn't, though, it could well be the beginning of the end. □



Morton and Gibson spread-eagle Del Ray across the ringpost. It's almost a shame that this feud has ended. It was one of the best in recent years.

SEAT

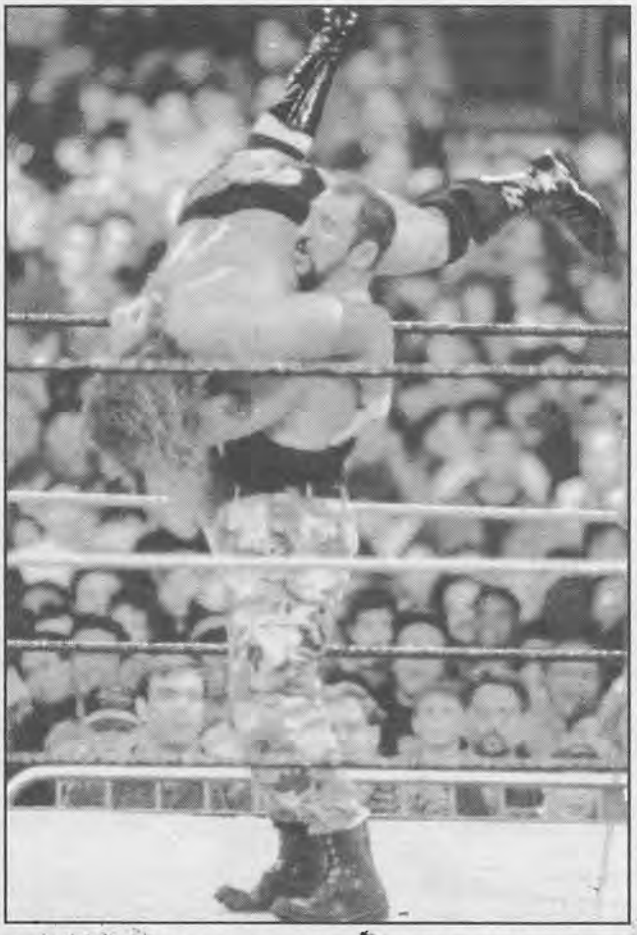
THE BUSHWHACKERS

"WE'RE KICKING BACK—AND KICKING BUTT!"

BUTCH MILLER and Luke Williams, The Bushwhackers, are two of wrestling's most colorful personalities. They've been known to do just about anything inside the squared circle. Opponents say they are impossible to prepare for because they do not have any semblance of a battle plan in the ring. They just wing it, and they wing it well.

Once known as The Kiwi Sheepherders, Butch and Luke have won all sorts of regional tag team titles, most notably in Memphis and in Florida. Now Miller and Williams believe they're finally ready to win a major federation title, and are taking aim at WWF champions The Quebecers. There, the unpredictable duo is feuding with another veteran independent team, The Heavenly Bodies. The Bushwhackers dominated the Bodies in a series of matches, but were beaten by Tom Prichard and Jim Del Ray in the dark match at WrestleMania X.

Senior Editor Bill Apter has known The Bushwhackers for years. He interviewed them at an auto dealership in Philadelphia on April 2, where they and several other wrestlers appeared to sign autographs and meet thousands of fans. "People simply adore Butch and Luke," Apter said. "They are two crazed wrestlers—and I emphasize the word crazed! They're vicious inside the ring, but lovably loony outside. Any interview with them is always an adventure in the absurd."



Bushwhacker Luke prepares to bodyslam Tom Prichard during the unTelevised ("dark") match at WrestleMania X. The Bushwhackers lost to The Heavenly Bodies, but note they had beaten them three times before.

APTER: So tell me, how'd you like taking part in the dark match at WrestleMania?

BUTCH: Don't believe what they tell you. It wasn't dark, mate.

LUKE: That's right. The lights above the ring—

BUTCH: Were on. They weren't even dimmed.

APTER: You lost to The Heavenly Bodies.

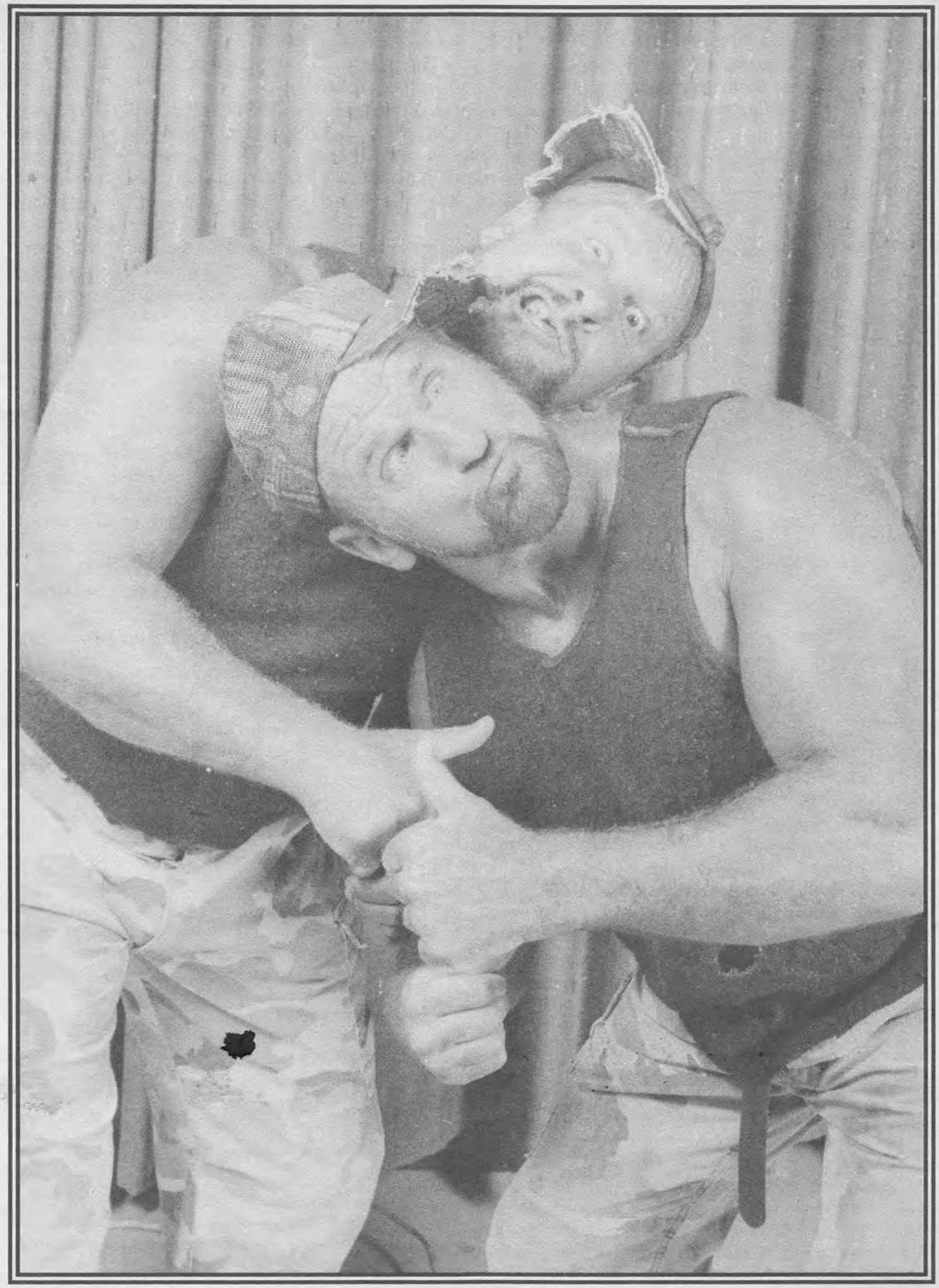
LUKE: Haven't those guys ever heard of truth-in-advertising laws, mate? *(He affectionately licks Apter's face.)*

APTER: Boy, am I glad I remembered to wash this morning.

BUTCH: You want heavenly bodies? Get [illegible] Nicole Smith and Elle MacPherson to form a tag team, managed—

LUKE: By Michelle Pfeiffer! *(He begins to pant like a dog.)*

BUTCH: Hey, mate, we'd beaten [Tom] Prichard and [Jim] Del



Ray three times in the previous week. That certainly proves who's better. The law of averages was just on their side this time. ***(He proceeds to lick Luke's face.)***

APTER: I'm surprised you guys



haven't developed whiskers and claws by now.

BUTCH: That's a good one, mate! Here kitty, kitty, kitty ...

LUKE: Meow! Meow!

APTER: First a dog, then a cat. (Pauses.) Well, I understand last night in Kentucky, the Bodies lost a loser-leaves-Smoky Mountain match to The Rock 'n' Roll Express. You may see a lot more of Prichard and Del Ray if they wind up in the WWF.

LUKE: Think we're worried, mate? Bring 'em on.

BUTCH: Keeps 'em both off the streets. ***(He begins licking the door of a new Toyota.)*** **Always did like Japanese cuisine, all the way back to my childhood in Auckland.**

LUKE: I prefer American, mate. ***(He goes after Apter's face again, but this time Bill successfully repels him.)***

APTER: I'm not much for sloppy seconds, thank you! By the way, I hear you're going to the White House Easter Egg roll on Monday.

BUTCH: That's right, mate. Bill and Hillary love us, and they love our name. To them, it brings back fond memories of '92.

LUKE: When our appearance was confirmed, someone on their staff asked us if there was also a tag team named The Perotwhackers!

"Hey, mate, we'd beaten [Tom] Prichard and [Jim] Del Ray three times in the previous week. That certainly proves who's better. The law of averages was on their side this time."

—Butch Miller

APTER: Tell me, can you guys win the WWF World tag team title?

BUTCH: Certainly. We're gonna rate, mate! As long as they give us the same chance all the other tag teams get.

LUKE: We're kicking back—and kicking butt! I know people call us crazy, but unlike those Quebecers, we are not diabolical.

BUTCH: And we don't have a manager—

LUKE: And if we did, mate, it certainly wouldn't be someone like that sleazy Johnny Polo.

APTER: Well, if you wanted Capt. Lou Albano, he's no longer available. He's reunited with Afa to help The Headshrinkers.

BUTCH: Sorry, Lou, you blew it, mate.

LUKE: Capt. Lou will sing the blues!

BUTCH: With NRBQ! ***(Starts singing.)*** **"Some say his head's not wrapped too tight, Capt. Lou, Capt. Lou, Capt. Lou ..."**

APTER: Well, let's go over some of the other contenders. There's The Smokin' Gunns, for instance.

LUKE: Wow, mate, those two pretty boys really scare me. Not! ***(He licks Butch's face.)***

BUTCH: Hate to tell you this, Bart and Billy, but this ain't no gunfight at the K.O. Corral.

APTER: That's "O.K."

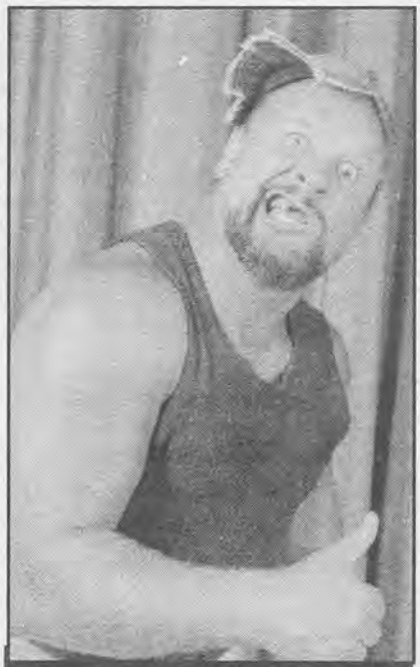
BUTCH: I know it's good! Anyway, if those two rhinestone cowboys want that, head to Hollywood. Or the Australian outback.

LUKE: Or the Outback Steakhouse!



Butch literally clowned around at the Survivor Series, as he was one of the four Doinks and took on Fatu.

BUTCH: Or the outhou—
APTER: (Quickly) How about Rick and Scott Steiner?
LUKE: Where are they, mate? Haven't seen 'em lately. Rick must be training Arnold to fetch his newspaper.
APTER: Rick and Scott are in Japan. Don't know if the dog passed through customs.

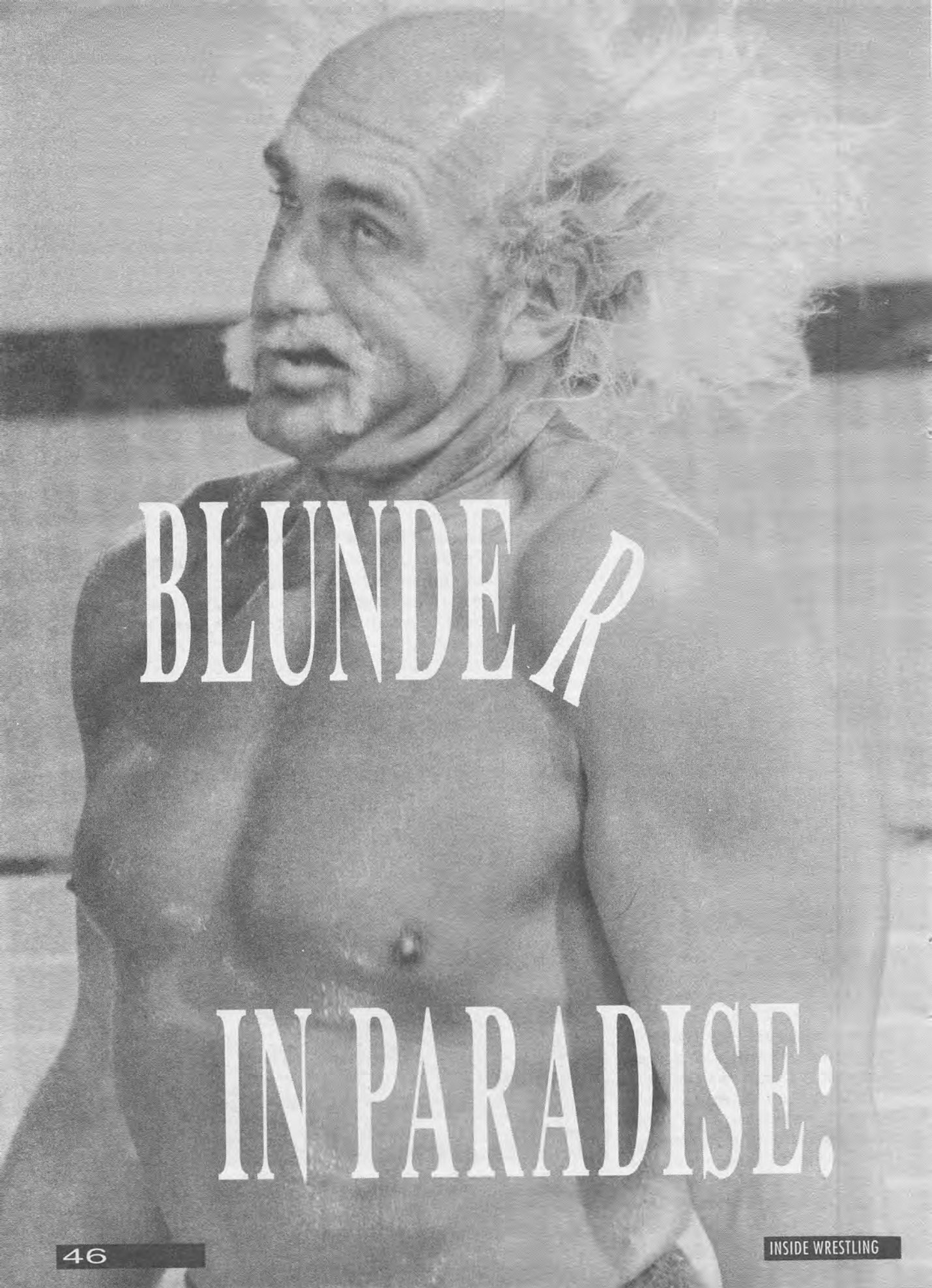


"Sure we brawl, mate. We're unpredictable. That's part of our edge. No one knows how to defend us. If *I* don't know how I'm thinking, how can my opponent?"
—Luke Williams

LUKE: As long as he doesn't pass through Korea. Otherwise he's lunch!
BUTCH: Let the Steiners stay there, mate. And they probably will out of fright, since they know we're here in the States.
LUKE: If they meet us, we'll have to come up with some New Zealand rules or somethin', mate. They seem to like those kind of matches. ***(He walks over to the hood of a Chevrolet and begins licking it.)***
APTER: There goes that car's resale value! And Butch, what about Men on a Mission. What do you think of them?
BUTCH: Maybe Mabel and Mo—or is that Curly, Moe, and Larry?—*should* go on a mission, join some religious order. They already have the robes and hoods, mate, though I just couldn't see those rappers taking any vow of silence. ***(Luke returns.)*** **Hey, how was that Celebrity?**
LUKE: Here, find out. ***(He licks Butch's face.)***
APTER: Amazing. *(Shakes his head.)* What clowns!
BUTCH: That's right, we *were* clowns. Luke, remember when we donned those Doink outfits at the Survivor Series?
LUKE: Yeah, mate. Someday, we'll return the favor and take Doink and Dink down to New Zealand and teach them sheep-herding. Laughter is great, but wool keeps you warm.
APTER: You guys have wrestled for a long, long time.
BUTCH: We love it, mate. No matter what punishment we receive in the ring, we keep on keepin' on! ***(Hugs Luke, then licks his face.)***
APTER: Those matches you had with The Fantastics back in the UWF made that evident to all. Those were wars.
LUKE: Sure we brawl, mate. We're unpredictable. That's part of our edge. No one knows how to defend against us. If *I* don't know how I'm thinking, how can my opponent?
APTER: Or your partner, for that matter?
BUTCH: I know Luke better than I know myself. Which makes sense, 'cause I don't need to know myself since I already *am* myself, mate. Get the idea? Excuse me, but I need a little snack. ***(He heads to a Geo Storm and licks the driver's side door.)***
LUKE: Hey, Butch, is that fat-free?
BUTCH: No saccharin, mate.
LUKE: Aww, darn! I like saccharin.
BUTCH: Your loss, mate. Hey, Bill, come on over for some licks. I'll leave you the roof.
APTER: Thanks, but no thanks. □



The Bushwhackers' wackiness and unpredictability endears them to fans. Butch gets a good-luck pat on the head from a spectator before a match at The Forum in Montreal.



BLUNDER IN PARADISE:

In the cynical eyes of our Chris Bernucca, Hulk Hogan's humiliation has become as obvious as the tide crashing against the beach. His latest acting project should convince Hogan that he is best off in a wrestling ring



Hogan and Sting do a fight scene on Hogan's syndicated TV series, *Thunder In Paradise.* The show barely made it to the airwaves, and has not been well received by the critics.

WILL HULK HOGAN EVER STOP EMBARRASSING HIMSELF ?

By Chris Bernucca

FINALLY. TWO YEARS after the controversy, two years after ducking all the questions surrounding his alleged involvement in the WWF steroid scandal, two years after going into hibernation to protect his image, Hulk Hogan finally was going to appear on a real talk show. He was scheduled to sit across from the respected host of *Larry King Live* and come clean.

It would have been interesting to see Hogan's reaction to King's interrogation, although that might have irked King's boss. After all, broadcasting/sports impresario Ted Turner is counting on the "Hulkster's" return to boost WCW's national profile.

But King wasn't there. Instead, interrogating Hogan was the noted TV journalist Kermit the Frog. Somewhere, Jim Henson was laughing.

A quick check of the calendar showed the date to be April 1. How appropriate. Hogan's embarrassing behavior in the past few years has extended from the wrestling ring to movies and television. All signs now point to Hogan returning to the ring. Who knows? The college lecture circuit may be next.

Who took the WWF title last year under impromptu circumstances, only to lose the belt in his very next match (a mere 10 weeks later) due to overconfidence and lack of training? Who starred in a movie whose release date was delayed more often than the Long Island Rail Road? Who's on the verge yet another ballyhooed comeback? Take a wild guess, and don't say Bobo Brazil.

"Again?" cried one fan outside a WCW TV taping in Atlanta. "Hasn't he had enough? If Hogan comes back to WCW, guys like Ric Flair and Big Van Vader will just embarrass him even more."

WWF expert Thomas Pilliard disagrees, but only slightly. "You

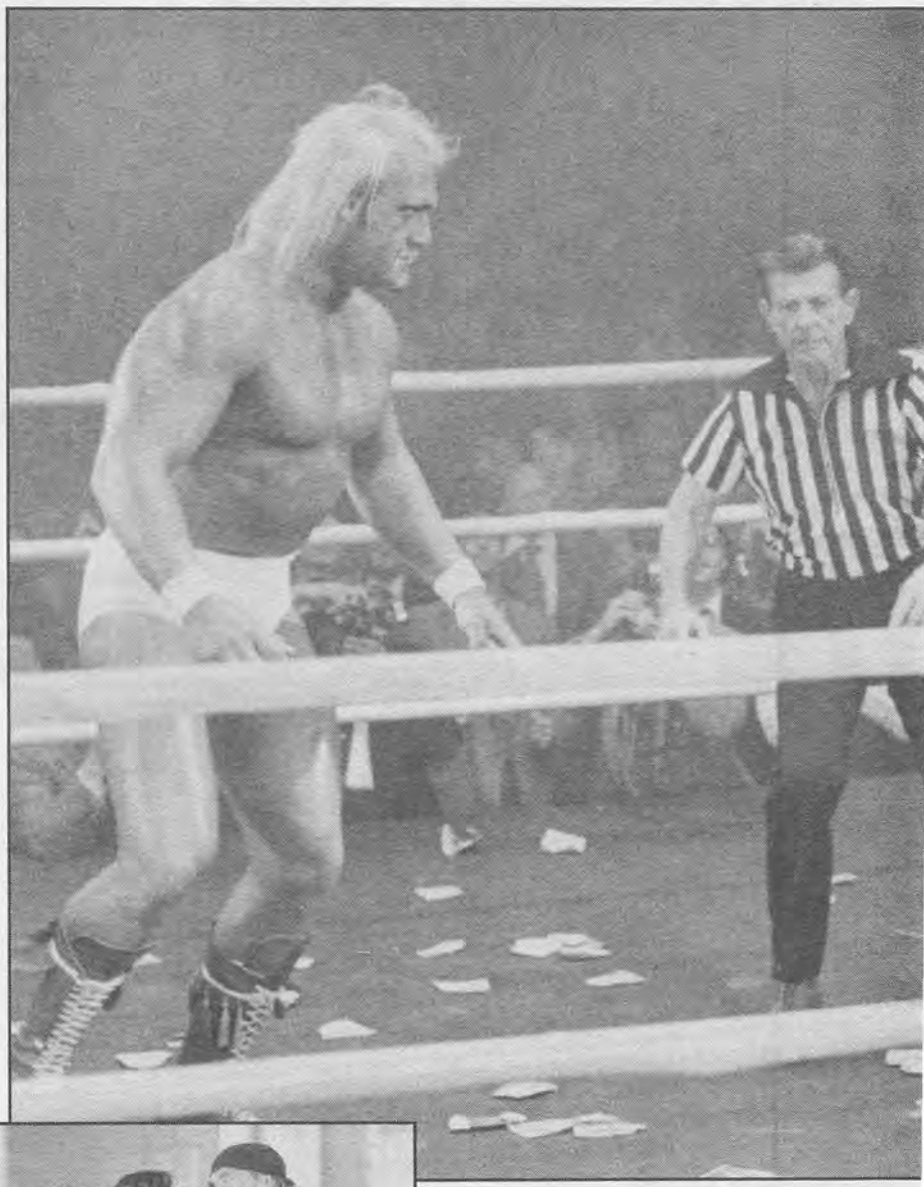
can never discount Hogan's ability to come up with a big performance in the wrestling ring, but it should be noted that he has wrestled about six matches in the last two years. There's a lot of ring rust there."

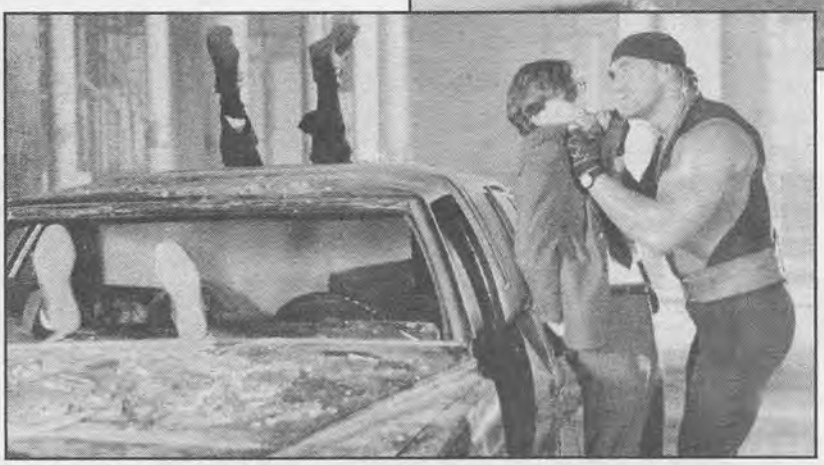
A WCW rulebreaker contends Hogan's move may stem from desperation. "I guess that acting stuff isn't going so well, but who thought it would? Hogan's not an actor, and he's not much of a wrestler anymore, either."

And maybe it's just as well, at least where his acting is concerned. This is a guy who built an entire thespian career around a 12-minute cameo as Thunderlips in *Rocky III*. His first two starring vehicles were the formulaic wrestling saga *No Holds Barred* and the barely adequate sci-fi comedy *Suburban Commando*. You would think after those two critically acclaimed masterpieces, he might re-think the whole film concept. Instead, he dove right into the juvenile *Mr. Nanny*, which includes one scene where Hogan dons a tutu.

Believe it or not, his brief experience on the small screen has been even more embarrassing. Hogan currently stars in *Thunder In Paradise*, your typical tough-guys-on-the-beach-protect-the-seaside-community-from-evil-and-get-all-the-babes vehicle. It shows about as much imagination as a copy machine.

Hogan invested plenty of time into this project, so imagine his shock when he was told that the series had the distinct possibility of never reaching the airwaves.





Hogan didn't need to do much research for his first starring role, as he portrayed a wrestler in *No Holds Barred*. It drew a tepid reaction from critics, and did average box-office business.

An unidentified source close to the production of *Thunder In Paradise* revealed that some of the show's top executives were so dismayed with the final product that they considered pulling the financial plug on the project before the show even aired once, willing to nip their losses in the bud.

Nevertheless, the show has gone on, with an expected reaction. After all, what can be said about a program best described as a poor version of its popular

stablemate *Baywatch*? The program is rife with bad acting, most of it from Hogan and longtime cronies Brutus Beefcake and Jimmy Hart. Only Hogan could turn embarrassment into a group participation event.



Sylvester Stallone can be credited with turning Hogan into a screen star. When he hired the "Hulkster" for a small role in *Rocky III* in 1982, little did he know what it would lead to.

It's too soon to tell if the syndicated series will be a hit, although it's interesting that several affiliates are airing *Thunder* opposite *WWF Monday Night Raw* or other wrestling programming.

In the ring, Hogan at least convinced some of the fans that he was a good wrestler. That is, until last year. After a lackluster performance with Beefcake in a tag team match against Money Inc., he stole the WWF World title from Yokozuna, sneering at federation rules and stepping on Bret Hart's toes in the process. Hogan then had the audacity to believe that he could not wrestle for 70 days and just walk into the ring and defeat the federation's biggest wrestler in a rematch.

Nevertheless, Hogan appears ready for a return to wrestling, probably in WCW, where the top-notch talent level is considerably better than in the WWF. If Hogan thinks Yokozuna was tough, wait until he gets in the ring with Vader, who holds all opponents in equal disdain and is out to hurt people. Or Flair, who has a score to settle with Hogan from their days together in the WWF.

"Here I am, the World champion, and the guy everyone is calling my potential rival is being interviewed by an amphibian!" said Flair of Hogan's April Fool follies. "Rather bizarre, don't you think? If we meet, Hulk, remember this: When we last wrestled, you had the home-mat advantage. Next time, it'll be mine." The "Nature Boy" smiled.

In Hogan's defense, over the past year he has won several matches in Japan against some of that nation's best wrestlers. But even if he does go to WCW, most observers expect him to compete part-time at best. The "Hulkster" can cite his acting career as a reason, but more likely it's because he doesn't have the stamina to wrestle as frequently as Flair, Vader, or Sting.

"If he thinks he's just going to strut right in and win the World title, he's in for a major disappointment," said U.S. champion Steve Austin, who may have his eyes on the same title. "He'll get no red carpet to the title just 'cause he's Hulk Hogan. Nobody cares about that aura and charisma stuff over here."

Should Hogan enter WCW, he may often find his shoulders on the mat, an opponent firmly planted on top of him. As for the embarrassment that will cause him, don't shed any tears. Embarrassment is something with which Hogan is very familiar. □



Hogan may think returning to wrestling would be a respite from the assaults by TV and movie critics. But can he successfully challenge the likes of Ric Flair in WCW—on the "Nature Boy's" home turf?

PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY DIALS 911- AND DID HE MAKE THE RIGHT CONNECTION!

Once again, Paul E. Dangerously has used his cellular telephone to reach out and touch someone. His latest charge is the biggest man in ECW and has the federation fan favorites calling for help!

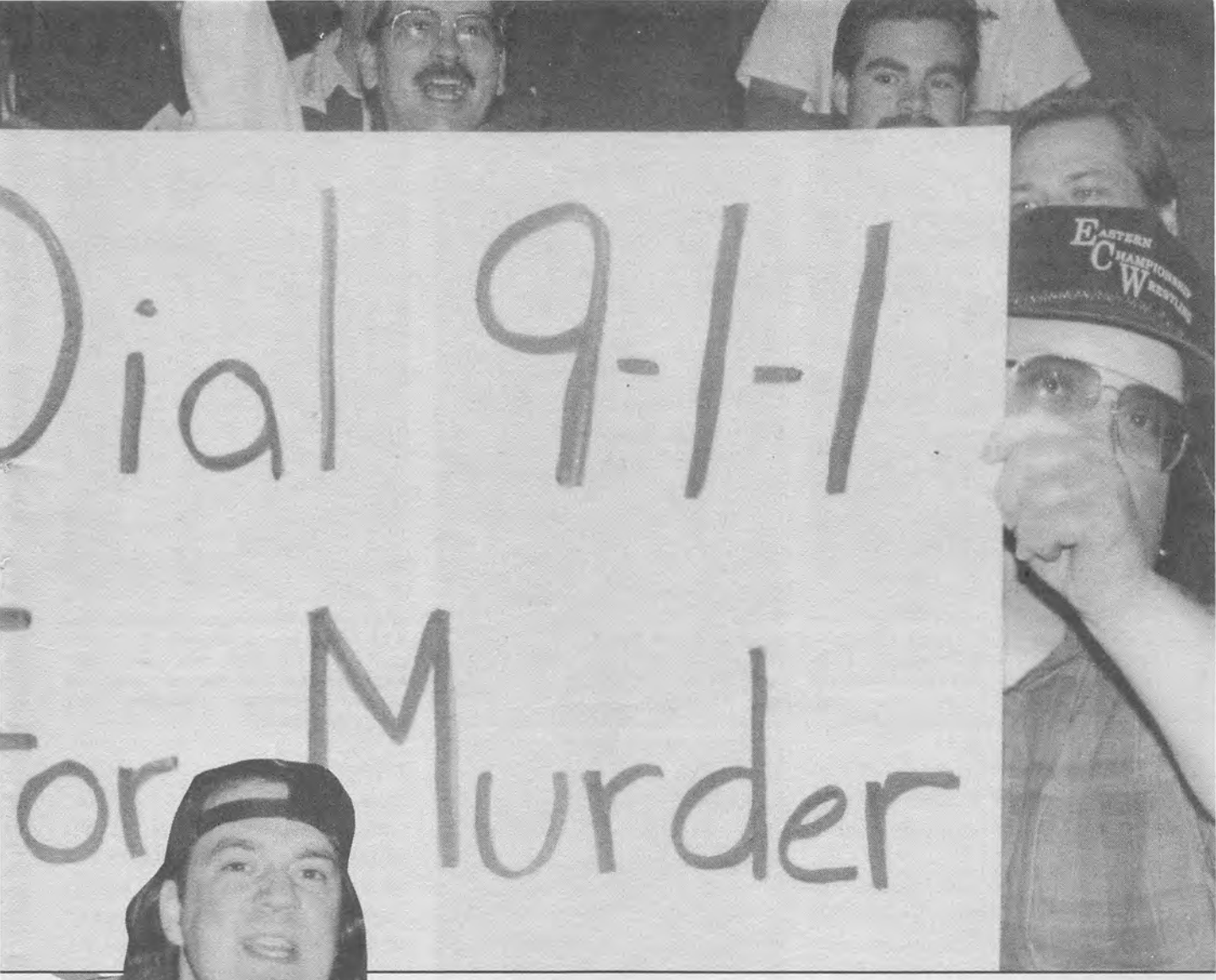
By Chris Bernucca

THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY is racing past many people. Paul E. Dangerously is not one of them.

The popular manager has put his association with wrestling to great use. As a teenager, he took photographs of matches, some of which ended up on the pages of this family of magazines. He then moved into the sport as a manager, developing a keen eye for talent. He also spent time behind the microphone as an announcer and used that opportunity to influence the media.

And along the way, he made contacts. Lots of them. There is perhaps no one in the sport more well-connected than Paul E. Dangerously. There is a reason





Photos By Jason Ross Lavin & Bill Apter

why he is never without his cellular telephone. It is his lifeline.

"Those idiot fans think the phone is a weapon, and they're right," boasted Dangerously. "They just don't understand how powerful a weapon it is. I'm not using it to call the Home Shopping Network, I can tell you that. Power and influence don't do you any good unless you are accessible, and this phone makes me accessible."

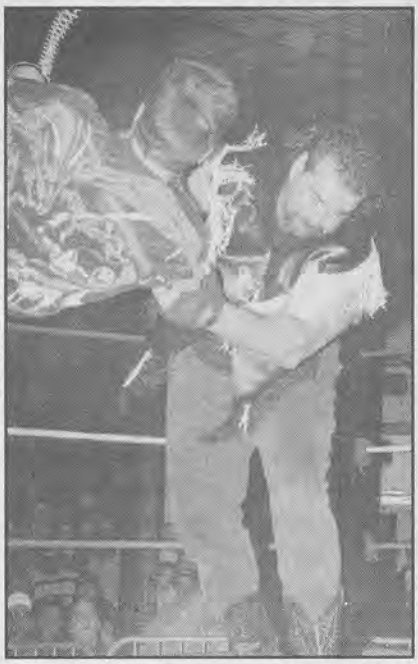
Recently, Dangerously put that lifeline to use again. A friend informed him of a monster of a man who could be of some use. At 6'7" and well over 300 pounds, the man could be very influential in physical encounters. Unfortunately, he had no wrestling experience. That was a minor detail to Dangerously, who let his fingers do the walking.



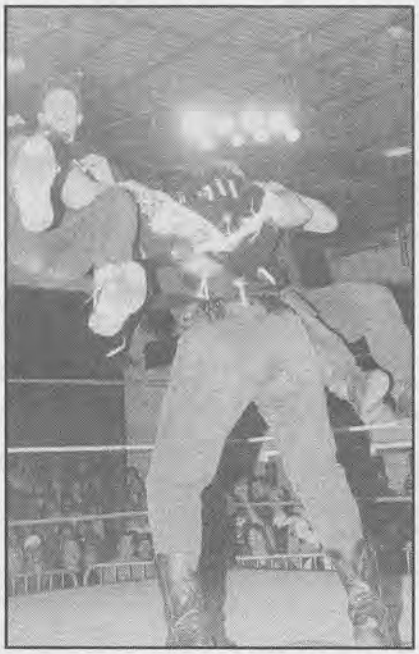
He's known as 911, but to opponents in Eastern Championship Wrestling he's strictly a wrong number. The ECW giant has toyed with rivals such as Don E. Allen.

Paul E. Dangerously seems as awed at 911 as most ECW fans are. And why not, given 911's rampage through federation foes.





Mikey Whipwreck may have to dial 911 after being slammed to the mat by 911. The big man isn't experienced, but for now has the size and strength to handle most of his opponents.



911 so captivates ECW fans that they like to see him slam anyone to the mat. He celebrates a victory in a handicap match by putting down a pair of ring attendants.

He called 911, and the red lights and sirens in Eastern Championship Wrestling have been blaring ever since.

At first, Dangerously used 911 to help control Sabu, the ECW TV champion. Sabu had become so violent and uncontrollable that Dangerously had him wheeled to ringside for his matches in a gurney, much like Dr. Hannibal Lecter in *The Silence Of The Lambs*. His gigantic new assistant was responsible for binding and unbinding Sabu.

And 911 began showing some of his potential at the World Wrestling Network's inaugural TV taping in New York, where he beat Paul Warrior and Mikey Whipwreck in a handicap match.

But it was a week later in Philadelphia that Dangerously really discovered his new man's skills. Early in the card, 911 won another handicap match, manhandling Wipwreck and Paul Orea. Later, 911 was at ringside for Sabu's title match against Mike Awesome. He choked Awesome, allowing Sabu to retain his TV championship with a pinfall victory.

The following day, 911 destroyed Damian Stone, then fended off a postmatch attack by Awesome. Despite his lack of ring experience, 911 has become a dominant force in ECW. The big man is making a name for himself while stretching Dangerously's powerful influence even further across the federation.

"He's quite a specimen," said Shane Douglas. "People compare him to Sid Vicious, but I think 911 is further along than Sid at this point in his career."

Dangerously is getting plenty of credit for his managerial skills in discovering 911, but it was his networking ability that actually paved the way for the big man to become a wrestler. Dangerously also has plenty of contacts away from the ring and one of them put him onto 911.

As Paul E. tells it ... "At one time, the guy was in a gang with Hawk. B.P. Hammer was also in that gang, and he and Hawk weren't exactly seeing eye-to-eye.



911 made an impression on New York fans when he easily won a handicap match at the World Wrestling Network's first TV taping. He had no difficulty defeating Paul Warrior and Whipwreck.

What a mismatch! 911 is simply too much for Whipwreck, who desperately tries to survive the behemoth's chokehold.



Hammer wanted to take out Hawk, and he wanted to use 911. Knowing Hawk to be a wrestler, he wanted to fight fire with fire. So we made a deal."

The deal was that Dangerously would enlist the help of 911 in order to control Sabu. At the same time, Dangerously would show 911 the ins and outs of the sport, better preparing him for Hammer's needs. Hammer no longer has any use for Hawk, whose fan favorite status doesn't sit well with the ideals of Hammer's circle of friends.

"He is creating a state of emergency in professional wrestling," Dangerously boasted.

It appears 911 won't be returning to Hammer's gang anytime soon. He has all but settled his feud with Awesome. His next chore could be helping Sabu regain the TV title (currently held by Pit Bull Psycho Mike), or the ECW heavyweight belt (currently held by Shane Douglas).

As usual, the well-connected Dangerously has plenty of options. He could continue to wrestle Sabu and 911 in singles matches, or pair them in what would immediately become one of ECW's better tag teams and have them pursue that title. The big man has apparently targeted Crash the Terminator as his next victim. After that, a showdown with Hawk may be looming.

"Let's just say we've had our differences," Hawk said of 911. "I never cared for him, but because of our affiliation, I put up with him. It's just like Hammer to get someone to fight his own battles."

While speaking as the confident veteran, Hawk also knows that if he takes 911 lightly, he will be in trouble. Dangerously's newest stable member is wreaking havoc on ECW and one of wrestling's greatest managers has dialed the right number—again.

"Just remember, when you call 911, you're asking to go to the hospital," Dangerously said with a laugh. "He'll make sure you get there, but you'll have to arrange your own transportation." □

The telephone wires sizzle each month, as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. Here's the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to feel the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One On One

ONE O



"You always hide behind Kimberly. When you beat me for the Smoky Mountain title, you had Ron Wright kick me with a loaded boot. It took three people to beat me."
—Brian Lee

IT'S FUNNY HOW things change in wrestling. Smoky Mountain fans used to despise Tony Anthony, the man they call the "Dirty White Boy." Conversely, Brian Lee used to be a much-respected, up-and-coming fan favorite.

Lee's attitude took a turn for the worse last spring when he met aspiring manager Tammy Fytch. The snobby Wellesley College graduate made "Prime Time" an offer he couldn't refuse. Lee turned against his former friend Tracey Smothers and won his second SMW title by beating him last July. Thanks in part to Fytch's constant interference, Lee escaped his feud with Smothers with the Smoky Mountain title still around his waist.

Meanwhile, Anthony seemed perfectly happy as one of the dirtiest rulebreakers in the South. Then last fall, he discovered Lee and Fytch's plan to bilk his manager, Ron Wright, out of a lot of money. He became an immensely popular fan favorite after Fytch and Lee attacked him and Wright at a TV taping.

Since then, Lee and Anthony have wrestled in some of the most brutal matches SMW has ever seen. "Dirty White Boy" even enlisted the help of "Dirty White Girl" Kimberly to help him neutralize Fytch. Anthony finally won the Smoky Mountain title from Lee on February 13, when he bested "Prime Time" in a bloody Tennessee chain match in Knoxville. More recently, Anthony and Kimberly have gotten the best of Lee and Fytch in a series of mixed tag matches.

Neither man is shy when it comes to offering opinions about the other. Lee was initially hesitant about "wasting my time" talking to Anthony, but he ultimately agreed to match wits with him ... "One On One."

TONY ANTHONY: You're a tough man to get a hold of, "Prime Time." Tell me something, are you sitting on the knee of that witch Tammy Fytch, having her pull your string and telling you what to say? I know you're afraid to go anywhere without her.

BRIAN LEE: I'm not afraid of anyone, "White Boy." I love being around Tammy. She's the best manager around today. She's smart, she's beautiful, she's ...

TA: Don't forget what a great wrestler she is, too. *(laughs)* I know you're stupid, but I didn't think you were dumb enough to bring her into the ring with you. Did you really think she could wrestle? I almost busted out laughing when first I saw her in the ring in wrestling gear, actin' like she knew what she was doin'. I guess they don't have to take phys ed classes where she comes from. That little witch probably hired someone to exercise for her. It's a shame Kim has to waste her time humiliating her.

BL: Oh, yes, the lovely Kimberly. You know, I've been in the ring with her enough times that I can safely say she has earned her nickname. If she isn't the "Dirty White Girl," I don't know who is. I'll take Tammy; at least she bathes every day.

TA: Fytch has got you wrapped around her little finger. You were the only one stupid enough to take her as a manager. Any fan will tell you Kim's better than Fytch. I bet Kim could beat you, too. You saw her

N ONE



"You're a big talker for a guy whose favorite finishing move is having your manager hit your opponent with a loaded purse or blind him with hair spray."
—Tony Anthony

knock out The Hornet with one punch. I bet you're glad you don't have to face her when she's mad.

BL: That punch was a fluke the way I saw it. *(laughs)* I love listening to you talk about the fans. It's real hard for me to believe you care what the fans think. They don't know squat. They're so dumb that they think you've changed your ways. If you think their opinion matters, then you're even dumber than I thought you were. Come to think of it, that's possible.

TA: I hate to change the subject on you, but has Fytch recovered from the embarrassment of having Kim strip her under the ring during our match in Pikeville? She was lucky Chris Candido came out and gave her a blanket to wrap around herself. She deserves all the humiliation she gets.

BL: The work of two people with real class. You're a real man and "White Girl's" a real lady, right? Give me a break. You two deserve each other. You always hide behind Kimberly. When you beat me for the Smoky Mountain title, you had Ron Wright kick me with a loaded boot. It took three people to beat me.

TA: You're a big talker for a guy whose favorite finishing move is having your manager hit your opponent with a loaded purse or blind him with hair spray.

BL: Yeah, and you're a big talker for a guy with no talent. If you wouldn't have had that old man there with you when you stole the title from me, you wouldn't have stood a snowball's chance. You ever hear of somethin' called luck, "White Boy"? That's how you got that Smoky Mountain title from me. I can't even count the number of times I beat you and left you lying there on your back in the middle of the ring. You got that one lucky win.

TA: Chain matches are my specialty. You should have known you were gonna be overmatched. Anything goes in those kinds of matches. You have to be ready for anything. I'm not surprised you weren't prepared, but that's your problem.

BL: You could at least admit the truth—that you can't beat me in a regular match. You don't stand a chance.

TA: You're the wrong man to say something like that, Lee. You should never have won the Smoky Mountain title from Tracey Smothers last year. We keep getting back to the same thing: Tammy Fytch's interference is the only reason you've had any success at all lately.

BL: *(mockingly)* Now you and good ol' Tracey are the best of friends, aren't you? You two deserve each other. I used to think Smothers was my friend, too, but I saw through his phoniness. Hanging around a nobody like him will get you nowhere. Yeah, you stick with him. You'll go far.

TA: Everybody knows Tracey and me had our differences in the past. But the past is the past. If Tracey and I are such losers, how come we were able to beat you and Candido into dust? I guess your brilliant explanation for those losses is they were flukes, too.

BL: I'm not interested in any of your boring history lessons, "White Boy." I want to know what a genius like you has planned for the future. Let me guess: You plan on defending the title against any worthy challenger except me—the one man who poses the biggest threat to your pathetic reign.

TA: I think I've beaten you enough, but I would be glad to humiliate you and Fytch some more if that's what you want.

BL: This has been fun, "White Boy," but I have more important things to do.

TA: Tell Tammy that me and Kim said "Hi." □

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On The Road

(Continued from page 10)



Volkoff would prefer to be a fan favorite, just as he was several years ago when he defended America's honor against the renegade Sgt. Slaughter. Still, no one forced Volkoff to go back to rulebreaking.

cab drivers or immigrant Pakistanis to own tobacco shops or immigrant Koreans to run grocery stores. These people are individuals who made choices with their lives, and with those choices come circumstances.

You want to be a cab driver? Well, you better be prepared to go to undesirable neighborhoods every once in a while. You want to own a tobacco shop? Well, you better have your door open for business at 6 a.m. every working day for commuters. You want to run a grocery store? Well, you better make sure your goods are fresh at all times.

Volkoff knows the score. In fact, he probably came to America because he was fed up with not being able to do what he wanted to do in his own country. And he doesn't *have* to be a rulebreaker. But he had better understand that nobody is going to offer him the money he's receiving from DiBiase to be a fan favorite. He can take the money, or he can keep his self-respect. That's a choice he has to make, and we shouldn't feel sorry for him.

Three years ago, Ashley made her choice. She took the money, hoping to eventually regain her self-respect. By the time she is 25, she hopes to have enough saved to move herself and her daughter to rural Pennsylvania, buy a house, go back to school, earn her degree, and become a teacher.

But for now, she feels like a piece of meat in a butcher's display window. There is a distinct lack of intimacy in her life. And there is the knowledge that one day, her daughter will ask her what she did before she was a teacher.

Ashley found that her self-respect has a price. She is not unique. As DiBiase would say, all of us have a price—including Nikolai Volkoff. So don't cry for him. He is only faced with a decision that people like you and me have to make every day. ☐

This Month In...

The Wrestler



CACTUS JACK'S bloody body bounty: "Bring me **VADER'S** ear!"



Can **LUNA VACHON** douse **ALUNDRA'S BLAYZE**?

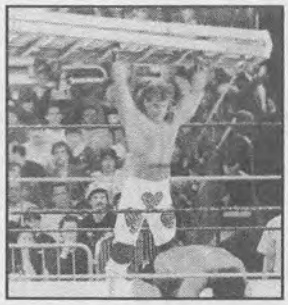
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Sincerely Yours

(Continued from page 5)



Hulk Hogan is rumored to be heading to WCW, and reader Billy Parkinsen would like to see The Ultimate Warrior follow suit.

Blonds that Pillman's former partner, Steve Austin, won the U.S. title from Dustin Rhodes. "Flyin'" Brian, on the other hand, has been inconsistent in solo competition. Austin always seems to get the best of him in their matches against one another, even though he usually resorts to cheating.

I believe Pillman would be better off if he found a new tag team partner. There are a lot of good wrestlers in WCW whose styles would complement his well. Rick Steamboat, Dustin Rhodes, and Johnny B. Badd are three men who come to mind. Pillman's ideal partner, I think, would be Arn Anderson. "The Enforcer" has the experience and toughness that would blend perfectly with Pillman's great aerial skills. I think both men should consider this career move.

ANNA WORLEY
Athens, GA

WCW WARRIOR

WCW, you have surprised me. Your federation has come a long way! You are on the verge of surpassing the WWF with the improvement in your TV shows and wrestlers. Now you're on the verge of signing Hulk Hogan, and many fans await matches between he and Ric Flair.

Well, I've got an idea that could top even that—get The Ultimate Warrior in WCW! A rematch between Warrior and the "Hulkster" would no doubt be your greatest pay-per-view yet. Please don't say it's impossible, because you didn't approach Hogan that way.

Vince McMahon made a big mistake getting rid of Warrior, so why doesn't WCW capitalize on a WWF error again? It already seems that half the WWF roster has come over to WCW. Please think it over, WCW. After what you've accomplished lately, nothing is impossible.

BILLY PARKINSEN
Albany, NY

OH, OWEN!

Owen Hart proved at WrestleMania X who was right in the Hart family feud. Owen showed the world that he is just as talented and skilled a wrestler as his brother Bret. He showed why his brother should have tagged out in the Royal Rumble title match. He showed why his brothers should have helped him out at the Survivor Series. He showed why he should be a title contender for his brother's newly-acquired title belt.

Owen Hart proved once and for all that "The Rocket" is the real deal.

JOHN N. COLLINS
Eatontown, NJ □

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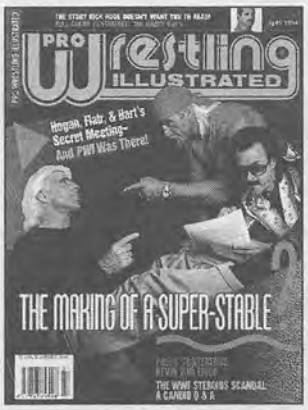
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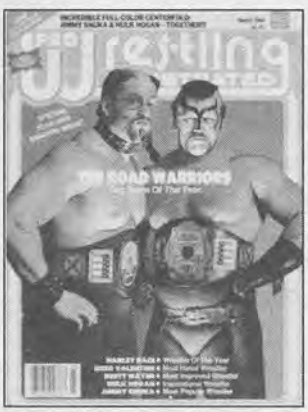
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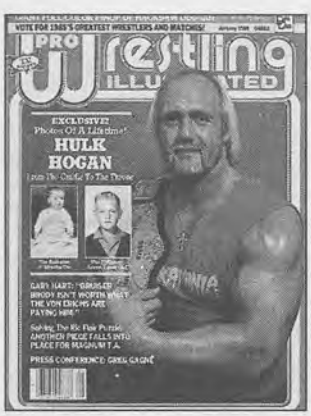
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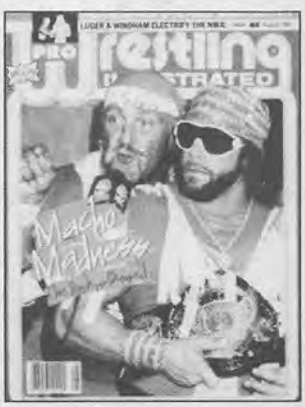


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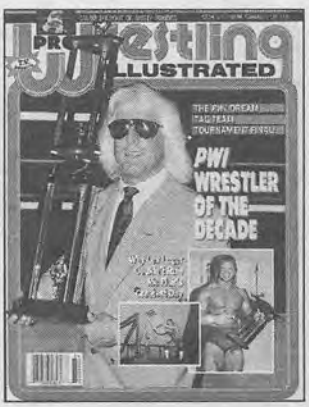


ON SALE JUNE 14









Behind the Door

(Continued from page 12)

several years back. The only connection between Bockwinkel and Flair is through Heenan, and it's an important one.

A feature story in the Summer 1994 issue of *Wrestle America* asked, "Is Bobby Heenan Secretly Managing Rick Rude?" It brought up the possibility that Heenan, while continuing in his duties as TV analyst, has quietly returned to active managing.

It follows that if Heenan is managing Rude, he could be managing Flair. And if he's managing Flair, then it's impossible to ignore his connection to Bockwinkel. Maybe Bockwinkel is in Heenan's pocket. Who knows? Maybe Heenan knows some dark, ghastly secret about Bockwinkel. Again, who knows?

That's the point. The *appearance* of impropriety is there. Although I originally thought WCW did the right move by hiring Bockwinkel, I now think it was a terrible mistake.

Think of it this way: If Bockwinkel was a Supreme Court candidate, would the U.S. Senate have approved him?

Of course not. Every newspaper in the country would have pointed out that Bockwinkel was a rulebreaker and now is being asked to enforce rules. His connection with Heenan would have been scandalous. In fact, there isn't a President in U.S. history who would have dared nominate such a man.

I believe in forgiving, but I'm not so sure about forgetting.

Being a rulebreaker should automatically disqualify any wrestler from holding an official title—matchmaker, promoter, referee, or commissioner—in any federation at any time. Once a rulebreaker, always a rulebreaker. Ex-cons can't hold office in the U.S. Ex-rulebreakers shouldn't be allowed to hold office in wrestling.

The events of Spring Stampede were especially alarming. Early in the card, Bockwinkel kept The Boss from hitting Harley Race with a nightstick and ordered him back to the dressing room.

"You are no longer The Boss," Bockwinkel ruled.

Later, after Rick Steamboat appeared to have pinned Flair in their World title match, Bockwinkel raised Flair's hand and ruled the match a draw. The crowd booed loudly.

Bockwinkel was correct in saying that Steamboat didn't win the title because the match was a draw. But why did he raise Flair's hand? Flair didn't win. Remember, the match was a draw. I think Bockwinkel was showboating. Why is a commissioner showboating?

Then we saw Bockwinkel sitting with Heenan at the broadcast table and gloating over his decision. Right then and there, WCW owner Ted Turner should have pulled the plug on Bockwinkel. He should have said, "Nick, you are no longer the boss."

Okay, maybe—*maybe*—Bockwinkel isn't guilty of anything. Maybe he's perfectly unbiased. Great. But it's not good enough. These questions shouldn't even arise. We shouldn't wonder whether Bockwinkel is biased or whether he's acting in concert with Flair and Heenan.

The appearance of impropriety is enough. And I've had enough of Bockwinkel. □



Heenan was Ric Flair's manager in the WWF two years ago. Is Heenan's influence with Bockwinkel helping the "Nature Boy" retain the WCW World title? Recent actions by the commissioner seem to indicate that it is.

never received a title shot while active, and in his retirement has never been given a visible public role. Unlike WCW, which is quick to recognize its ancient warriors, the WWF turns a blind eye to history.

On a day like this, Strongbow probably wished they'd never bother him again. After several interminably long speeches and a few incoherent mutterings by poor Strongbow, Tatanka took the mike and babbled. Well, he asked for it.

The ceremony was punctuated by caustic comments from announcers, only adding to the mockery and irreverence. Had Tatanka been sincere about his heritage, this would have been a private matter, done in true Indian tradition, without cameras or fanfare.

News Item: Hogan talks to WCW. The big news is that Hulk Hogan, of the WWF Hogans, spoke on camera to "Mean Gene" Okerlund and Bobby Heenan, who both now collect paychecks from WCW. What does this portend for future generations? It does not take a John Wayne Bobbitt to realize Hogan will try to resurrect Hulkamania one last time. (I use Bobbitt instead of the usual "rocket scientist" or "genius," though I also could have used "Buttafuoco" because I believe both men, Bobbitt and Buttafuoco, are prophets for this generation.)

News Item: Bobbitt and Buttafuoco, prophets for a generation. I have said in all seriousness that the one surefire way to jump-start women's wrestling is to hire Tonya Harding. Doesn't matter in what capacity. Let her manage or valet. With proper training, her raw athletic ability and inbred mean streak could turn her into a thoroughbred wrestler.

The same for the Killer B's. They look like wrestlers. Buttafuoco has the size, the knocked-around face, and a thug's coloration. Bobbitt is a former Marine—imagine the fun a guy like McMahon could have with that. Both men appeal to the blue-collar, diminished I.Q. wrestling fan. No doubt there are members even of this cerebral audience who hold one or both men in awe. Wrestling fans venerate celebrity of any classification. Fame is entitlement. McMahon knows that better than anyone. Remember the first WrestleMania? Billy Martin. Muhammad Ali. Liberace. It didn't matter who they are or what they are famous for—it only mattered they were famous.

News Item: Where was I? Like every sportswriter, I grew up with a headful of statistics and enough heroes for every season. My room was a sports shrine, testament to my faith and devotion. A picture from that era stands out. It is of the walls of my room, every inch covered with posters and pennants. Six figures tower among the others: Willie Mays, Harmon Killebrew, Bobby Orr, Don Vito Corleone, Jerry West, and Johnny Unitas.

For those of you who don't know, accept the fact that each was the best of his particular era. But they were identified as much for their skill as they were by another forgotten quality—stability. They stayed put. They played long careers with the same teams until their playing days were in twilight.



Gene Okerlund interviewing Hulk Hogan? That's old hat. What's new about their latest conversations is that they've been conducted under WCW auspices. Hogan will probably sign with that federation soon.

Vito Corleone, The Godfather, stayed with his brood for over 70 years (at least that's what Mario Puzo tells me).

Which brings us back to Hogan's appearance on WCW TV. It's no longer such a big deal. Ballplayers today barely spend enough time with one team to break in a locker, much less grow roots in a community, like Mike Schmidt in Philadelphia or Tony Gwynn in San Diego. It used to be Ric Flair was the guy from WCW, Hogan the fellow from the WWF. Then Flair jumped ship. Looks like Hogan will too someday. The only thing left for me, I say, is to find a bigger vessel myself. □

On Assignment

(Continued from page 16)

who beat Luger by DQ, thanks to Curt Hennig."

"Ol' 'Mr. Perfect' interfered? Good to have him back, even as a rulebreaker."

Richter laughed. "Not quite. Hennig was the guest referee and Luger shoved him, though Lex was mad at Curt because he was distracted earlier and didn't recognize a pin he had of Yokozuna." I nodded my head, not surprised at all. That's Luger for you. Perhaps his action was justified, but he remains his own worst enemy. "What's funny, Liz, is that while Bret is World champion, he's not the champ of his own family."

"Owen beat him?" I said incredulously. Sure, I respect Owen's talent, but ...

"Owen battered and bruised him!" Richter said. "It says something about Bret's grit that he could bounce back from such an assault."

"Tell me about the women's match." I knew she watched Alundra Blayze wrestle Leilani Kai with special interest. Remember, she defeated Kai at WrestleMania I back in 1985.

"Alundra won, though Leilani gave her a brief struggle," Richter said. "One to 10 and lose again, you might say. I'd love to wrestle Blayze, but she's never beaten me cleanly, so I doubt I'll get the chance. Tell the WWF people I'm available!"



Richter would like a match against current WWF Women's World champion Alundra Blayze, who has never beaten her cleanly. But she doubts she'll ever get the opportunity.

"Darn, Wendi, I wish Blayze and Luna Vachon would wrestle. It's obviously what everyone wants to see."

"Luna looked good today. She had a nice splash against Dink, and helped Bam Bam [Bigelow] beat the clowns. But she really should pick on someone her own size. And it'd be great for all of us women wrestlers if Luna wrestled Alundra. Remember '85? My match with Kai was big stuff. This time, the crowd didn't seem to care all that much."

I shrugged my shoulders. "Listen, we're in effect starting all over again. Give it time. I like that Alundra wants to bring some of Japan's best women wrestlers here to the States. Maybe Aja Kong or Bull Nakano can do for her what Jushin Liger did for Brian Pillman when WCW had a light heavyweight division a few years ago. And speaking of WCW, Sting beat Vader tonight for the European Cup."

"Anyone who can beat Vader impresses me," Richter said. "By the way, I heard about Cactus Jack's severed ear. Gee, that must've been a sight to see."

"No, that incident happened last Wednesday, before I arrived in Germany." Jack and I never even crossed paths, as WCW immediately sent him back to the U.S. to recuperate. "And believe me, Wendi, I'm glad it turned out that way." □

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November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
September 1986/Stories include: Andre,Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.
October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.
November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.
December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.
February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.
March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.
June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.
October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.
November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.
December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.
February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.
June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.
August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.
October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.
November 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Kerry, Luger, Muraco, Freebirds.
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January 1989/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Sting, Arn, Kerry-Lawler.
February 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Bossman, Tully & Arn, Warriors &Sting.
March 1989/Stories include: Hennig, Midnights-Midnights, Ultimate.
May 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Steiner, Morton, Bad Co., Taylor.
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July 1989/Stories include: Savage, Windham, Kerry, Demolition, Sting.
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November 1989/Stories include: Elizabeth, Sting, Luger, Paul E., Mascaras.
December 1989/Stories include: Rhodes, Flair, Hogan-Zeus, Embry.
January 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting-Flair, Roberts-DiBiase.
February 1990/Stories include: Warriors-Skyscrapers, Zenk, Rude-Piper.
April 1990/Stories include: Starrcade '89, Ultimate, Rhodes, Sawyer.
May 1990/Stories include: Hogan-Ultimate, Luger, Woman, Lawler, LPWA.
June 1990/Stories include: Sting, Saito-Zbyszko, Earthquake, Ultimate, Jarrett.
July 1990/Stories include: Steiners, Sting, Warrior & Hogan, Earthquake.
August 1990/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Hogan, Warrior, Taylor.
September 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Duggan, JYD, Adams, Horsemen.
October 1990/Stories include: Sting, Legion of Doom, Bushwhackers, Gigante.
November 1990/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Vicious, Slaughter, Orients.
December 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting, Kerry, Cornette, Zbyszko.
January 1991/Stories include: LOD, Adams, Steiners, Lawler-Funk.
February 1991/Stories include: Taylor, Hogan, Martel, Sting, all-annoying team.
March 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Earthquake, Roberts-Martel, Sting.
April 1991/Stories include: Flair-Sting, Steiners, Piper, Zbyszko, Slaughter.
May 1991/Stories include: Savage-Warrior, Steiners, Sting, Virgil.
June 1991/Stories include: Steiners, LOD, Koloff, I-C belt, Dundees.
July 1991/Stories include: Hogan, Virgil, Funk, Nastys, Steiners, Spivey.
August 1991/Stories include: Warrior-Undertaker, Steiners, Flair, Steamboat.
September 1991/Stories include: Justice-Hogan, Hyatt, Rude, Hennig.
October 1991/Stories include: Savage & Liz, Hogan & Warrior, Luger.
November 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Luger, Flair, War Games.
December 1991/Stories include: SummerSlam, York, Simmons.
January 1992/Stories include: Sting, Freebirds, Hart, Rhodes, Rotundo.
February 1992/Stories include: Luger, Hart, Patriot, Rude, Thesz-Rogers.
April 1992/Stories include: Hart, Steiners, Liger-Pillman, Roberts.
May 1992/Stories include: Justice-Hogan, Liger, Gilbert, Repo Man.
June 1992/Stories include: Sting, Hogan, Race, M.A. Bagwell, Atlas.
July 1992/Stories include: Undertaker, Vader, Sherri/Michaels, Madusa.
August 1992/Stories include: Savage-Flair, Jack-Badd, Christopher, LOD.
September 1992/Stories include: War Games, Hogan, Vader, Kamala.
October 1992/Stories include: SummerSlam, Steiner-Muta, Simmons.
November 1992/Stories include: Flair, Warrior, Vader, top rope rule.
December 1992/Stories include: Flair, Ramon, Heavenly Bodies, Jarrett.
February 1993/Stories include: LOD, Smoky Mountain, Rude, Jimmy Hart.
March 1993/Stories include: Michaels, Nikita Koloff, Windham-Rhodes.
April 1993/Stories include: New blood, Paul E., Sting-Vader, Flair, changing faces.
May 1993/Stories include: WrestleMania IX analsis, Andre tribute, Muta.
June 1993/Stories include: Doink, Vader-Sting, Jimmy Hart, Steiners, Lawler.
July 1993/Stories include: Bravo, Gonzales, Bulldog, Ramon, Arn, Tatanka.
August 1993/Stories include: Christopher-Michaels, Hogan-Yokozuna, Hart.
September 1993/Stories include: Steiners, Slamboree, Ramon, Sting & Smith, Hart.
October 1993/Stories include: Money Inc., Hart-Lawler, SummerSlam, Vader-Vicious.
November 1993/Stories include: Bodies, Jannetty, Rude-Flair, Hogan, Luger.
December 1993/Stories include: Austin, Luger, Sting & Flair, Yokozuna, Luna.
February 1994/Stories include: Holiday gifts, Blonds, Hogan, Duggan, Doinks.
March 1994/Stories include: Parker, Predictions, Hyatt, Borga, Flair-Roma.
May 1994/Stories include: Flair-Rude, Luger & Hart, Booger-Yokozuna.
June 1994/Stories include: Steamboat-Flair, Blayze, IRS, Bruise Bros.

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INSIDE WRESTLING'S
OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

1—RIC FLAIR
(7) WCW World champion
2—BRET HART
(1) WWF World champion
3—OWEN HART
(6) No. 2 contender: WWF title
4—STING
(2) No. 2 contender: WCW World title
5—BIG VAN VADER
(15) No. 6 contender: WCW World title
6—LEX LUGER
(5) No. 4 contender: WWF World title
7—STEVE AUSTIN
(12) WCW U.S. champion
8—DIESEL
(–) WWF Intercontinental champion
9—RICK STEAMBOAT
(8) No. 3 contender: WCW World title
10—TONY ANTHONY
(–) Smoky Mountain Champion
11—EARTHQUAKE
(–) No. 5 contender: WWF World title
12—RICK RUDE
(9) No. 7 contender: WCW World title
13—STEVE REGAL
(10) WCW TV champion
14—ROD PRICE
(–) Global heavyweight champion
15—YOKOZUNA
(13) No. 13 contender: WWF World title

WCW

1—RIC FLAIR
(1) 243, Minneapolis, MN
2—STEVE AUSTIN
(2) 241 Dallas, TX
3—STING
(4) 260, Venice Beach, CA
4—RICK STEAMBOAT
(6) 238, Honolulu, HI
5—STEVE REGAL
(3) 247, Blackpool, England
6—BRIAN PILLMAN
(–) 226, Cincinnati, OH
7—BIG VAN VADER
(5) 450, Denver, CO
8—RICK RUDE
(8) 246, Robbinsdale, MN
9—BUNKHOUSE BUCK
(–) 239, Bucksnort, TN
10—THE GREAT MUTA
(–) 245, Tokyo, Japan
11—DUSTIN RHODES
(10) 254, Austin, TX
12—JOHNNY B. BADD
(7) 235, Macon, GA
13—PAUL ORNDORFF
(–) 253, Brandon, FL
14—ARN ANDERSON
(13) 249, Minneapolis, MN
15—THE BOSS
(12) 310, Cobb County, GA

WWF

1—BRET HART
(1) 235, Calgary, Alberta
2—DIESEL
(–) 356, Las Vegas, NV
3—OWEN HART
(3) 223, Calgary, Alberta
4—RAZOR RAMON
(2) 291, Minneapolis, MN
5—LEX LUGER
(5) 290, Chicago, IL
6—EARTHQUAKE
(8) 462, Montreal, Quebec
7—JEFF JARRETT
(11) 220, Hendersonville, TN
8—BAM BAM BIGELOW
(13) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
9—KWANG THE NINJA
(–) 242, parts unknown
10—TATANKA
(9) 260, Miami, FL
11—SPARKY PLUGG
(15) 243, Talladega, AL
12—IRWIN R. SCHYSTER
(14) 245, Syracuse, NY
13—RANDY SAVAGE
(7) 245, Sarasota, FL
14—YOKOZUNA
(4) 550, Samoa
15—DOINK THE CLOWN
(10) 235, parts unknown

MOST POPULAR

1—BRET HART
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular
2—STING
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular
3—RAZOR RAMON
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular
4—RICK STEAMBOAT
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5—LEX LUGER
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6—RANDY SAVAGE
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7—THE BOSS
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12—CACTUS JACK
Last issue: No. 12 Most Popular
13—TONY ANTHONY
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15—JOHNNY B. BADD
Last issue: unrated

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4—SHAWN MICHAELS
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5—RICK RUDE
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated
6—JERRY LAWLER
Last issue: unrated
7—YOKOZUNA
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated
8—STEVE AUSTIN
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated
9—IRWIN R. SCHYSTER
Last issue: No. 12 Most Hated
10—BRIAN LEE
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11—TERRY FUNK
Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated
12—STEVE REGAL
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated
13—JEFF JARRETT
Last issue: No. 13 Most Hated
14—BUNKHOUSE BUCK
Last issue: unrated
15—SHANE DOUGLAS
Last issue: unrated

TOP 15

1—THE NASTY BOYS
(2) WCW World tag team champions
2—THE QUEBECERS
(1) WWF World tag team champions
3—CACTUS JACK & MAXX PAYNE
(–) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
4—RICK & SCOTT STEINER
(11) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
5—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS
(9) Smoky Mountain tag team champions
6—MEN ON A MISSION
(3) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
7—PUBLIC ENEMY
(–) ECW tag team champions
8—THE HEAVENLY BODIES
(7) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title
9—THE MOONDOGS
(6) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title
10—EVAD SULLIVAN & KEVIN SULLIVAN
(–) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title
11—MARCUS BAGWELL & 2 COLD SCORPIO
(4) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
12—THE HEADSHRINKERS
(12) No. 4 contenders: WWF World tag title
13—THE BUSHWHACKERS
(10) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
14—JERRY LAWLER & BRIAN CHRISTOPHER
(8) No. 2 contenders: USWA tag title
15—THE SMOKIN' GUNNS
(13) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended April 19, 1994

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

AAA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: EL HIJO DEL SANTO & OCTAGON
(November 5, 1993; defeated Love Machine & Eddy Guerrero; Tonala, Mexico)

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS
(September 9, 1993; from The Patriot & The Eagle; Omiya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUHARA MISAWA
(August 22, 1992; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI
(January 25, 1994; from Dan Kroffat; Miyagi, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSUHARA MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI
(December 3, 1993; defeated Akira Taue & Toshiaki Kawada in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUHARA MISAWA
(August 22, 1992; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S ALL-PACIFIC CHAMPION: TOSHIYO YAMADA
(November 28, 1993; defeated Minami Toyota; Osaka, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MIMA SHIMODA
(September 18, 1993; from Bat Yoshinaga; Omiya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: AJA KONG
(November 26, 1992; from Bull Nakano; Kawasaki, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CANDY OKUTSU
(December 6, 1993; from Chapparita Asari; Osaka, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DYNAMITE KANSAI & MAYUMI OZAKI
(December 6, 1993; from Minami Toyota & Toshyo Yamada; Osaka, Japan)

ALL STATE WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TONY PRICHARD
(March 24, 1994; tournament final vs. Regulator Stone; Maryville, TN)

ALL STATE WRESTLING JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BOBBIE FIELDS
(October 14, 1993; from Charles Long; Maryville, TN)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: T. RANTULA
(March 26, 1994; from Rip Sawyer; Johnsonburg, PA)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LORD ZOLTAN
(November 6, 1993; from Quinn Nash; Steelton, PA)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BAD CREW
(September 30, 1993; title previously vacant; York, PA)

AMERICAN STATES WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SCOTT SOMERS
(November 19, 1993; from Bo Dacious; Mansfield, OH)

ASWA LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHAD AUSTIN
(November 14, 1993; from Joe College; Essex, MD)

ATLANTIC WRESTLING COUNCIL LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION: BOBBY ROGERS
(December 4, 1993; from Blare Rogers; Hollywood, FL)

ATLANTIC WRESTLING COUNCIL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: T.J. JACKSON & THE MISER
(July 2, 1993; from American Scorpion & The Falcon; West Palm Beach, FL)

CAROLINA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MITCH RYDER
(January 15, 1994; from Kahn the Warlord; Durham, NC)

CAROLINA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE COUNTRY CLUB
(December 4, 1993; from The East-West Connection; Smithfield, NC)

CENTURY WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS
(December 4, 1993; from Vic Steamboat; Tewksbury, MA)

CENTURY WRESTLING ALLIANCE LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RAY ODYSSEY
(December 4, 1993; from El Mascarado; Tewksbury, MA)

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: VIC STEAMBOAT
(October 23, 1993; from The Iron Sheik; Wakefield, MA)

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RAY ODYSSEY
(October 23, 1993; from Flex Lavender; Wakefield, MA)

ECW CHAMPION: SHANE DOUGLAS
(March 26, 1994; from Terry Funk; Devon, PA)

ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE PUBLIC ENEMY
(March 6, 1994; from Kevin Sullivan & Tasmaniac; Philadelphia, PA)

ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION: PIT BULL PSYCHO MIKE
(April 16, 1994; from J.T. Smith; Philadelphia, PA)

GWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ROD PRICE
(April 1, 1994; from Chris Adams; Dallas, TX)

GWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BLACK BART & JOHN HAWK
(December 25, 1993; Chaz Taylor & Steven Dane; Dallas, TX)

ICWA CHAMPION: JUMBO BARRETTA
(September 23, 1993; from Cuban Assassin; Tampa, FL)

IWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: VLADIMIR KOLOFF
(October 17, 1992; battle royal final over Thunderfoot II; Girard, OH)

IWA INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: BARRY HOROWITZ
(October 23, 1993; from Preston Steele; Warren, OH)

IWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE HELD UP
(Most recently held by The Thunderfoots)

IWC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KONNAN
(April 2, 1994; from Cien Caras; Reynosa, Mexico)

IWCCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOE SAVOLDI
(December 26, 1991; from The Tasmaniac; Monticello, NY)

IWCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SIOUX WAR PARTY
(May 9, 1992; tournament final over The Canadians; Hamburg, PA)

IWGP CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI
(April 4, 1994; from Shinya Hashimoto; Hiroshima, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KENSUKE SASAKI & HAWK
(January 4, 1994; from Scott Norton & Hercules; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN LIGER
(January 4, 1993; from Ultimo Dragon; Tokyo, Japan)

MEWF HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE: LUCIFER
(November 14, 1993; from Morgus the Maniac; Essex, MD)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: MITSUHARA MISAWA
(August 22, 1992; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSUHARA MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI
(December 3, 1993; defeated Akira Taue & Toshiaki Kawada in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ITALIAN STALLION
(January 22, 1994; from Austin Steele; Taylorsville, NC)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: CRUEL CONNECTION II
(February 12, 1994; from American G.I.; Point Pleasant, WV)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: GEORGE SOUTH
(January 14, 1994; from Star Ryder; Hamlet, NC)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TERRY AUSTIN & AUSTIN STEELE
(February 4, 1994; from Italian Stallion & Star Ryder; Elkin, NC)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TONY ANTHONY
(February 13, 1994; from Brian Lee; Knoxville, TN)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS
(April 1, 1994; from The Heavenly Bodies; Pikeville, KY)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHRIS CANDIDO
(November 13, 1993; from Bobby Blaze; Morristown, TN)

TENNESSEE ALL-STAR WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TOMMY RICH
(September 23, 1993; from Buddy Landell; Maryville, TN)

TENNESSEE ALL-STAR WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PAUL RAY & JOHNNY RAYNOR
(September 23, 1993; from Tom Pitner & Deke Rivers; Maryville, TN)

USWA CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER
(March 24, 1994; from Eddie Gilbert; Sanatobia, MS)

USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: BRIAN CHRISTOPHER
(March 19, 1994; from Eddie Gilbert; Memphis, TN)

USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT
(Most recently held by The Moondogs)

WCW TELEVISION CHAMPION: LORD STEVEN REGAL
(September 19, 1993; from Rick Steamboat; Houston, TX)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: STEVE AUSTIN
(December 27, 1993; from Dustin Rhodes; Charlotte, NC)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR
(December 27, 1993; from Big Van Vader; Charlotte, NC)

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE NASTY BOYS
(October 24, 1993; from 2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell; New Orleans, LA)

WINDY CITY WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SMITH BROTHERS
(November 13, 1993; from The Twin Turbos; Greenville, IL)

WING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CRYPT KEEPER
(August 31, 1993; from Crash the Terminator; Akita, Japan)

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
(April 16, 1994; from Nailz; Atlantic City, NJ)

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: JACK HAMMER
(August 27, 1993; from Tony Atlas; Freeport, Bahamas)

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE DIAMOND EXPRESS
(March 14, 1994; by officials' decision)

WWA FRONTIER MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION: MR. ONITA
(September 19, 1992; from Tiger Jeet Singh; Yokohama, Japan)

WWA FRONTIER MARTIAL ARTS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TARZAN GOTO & GREGORY VERITCHEV
(May 24, 1992; from Horace Boulder & Sabu; Tokyo, Japan)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: DIESEL
(April 13, 1994; from Razor Ramon; Rochester, NY)

WWF WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ALUNDRA BLAYZE
(December 13, 1993; tournament final over Heidi Lee Morgan; Poughkeepsie, NY)

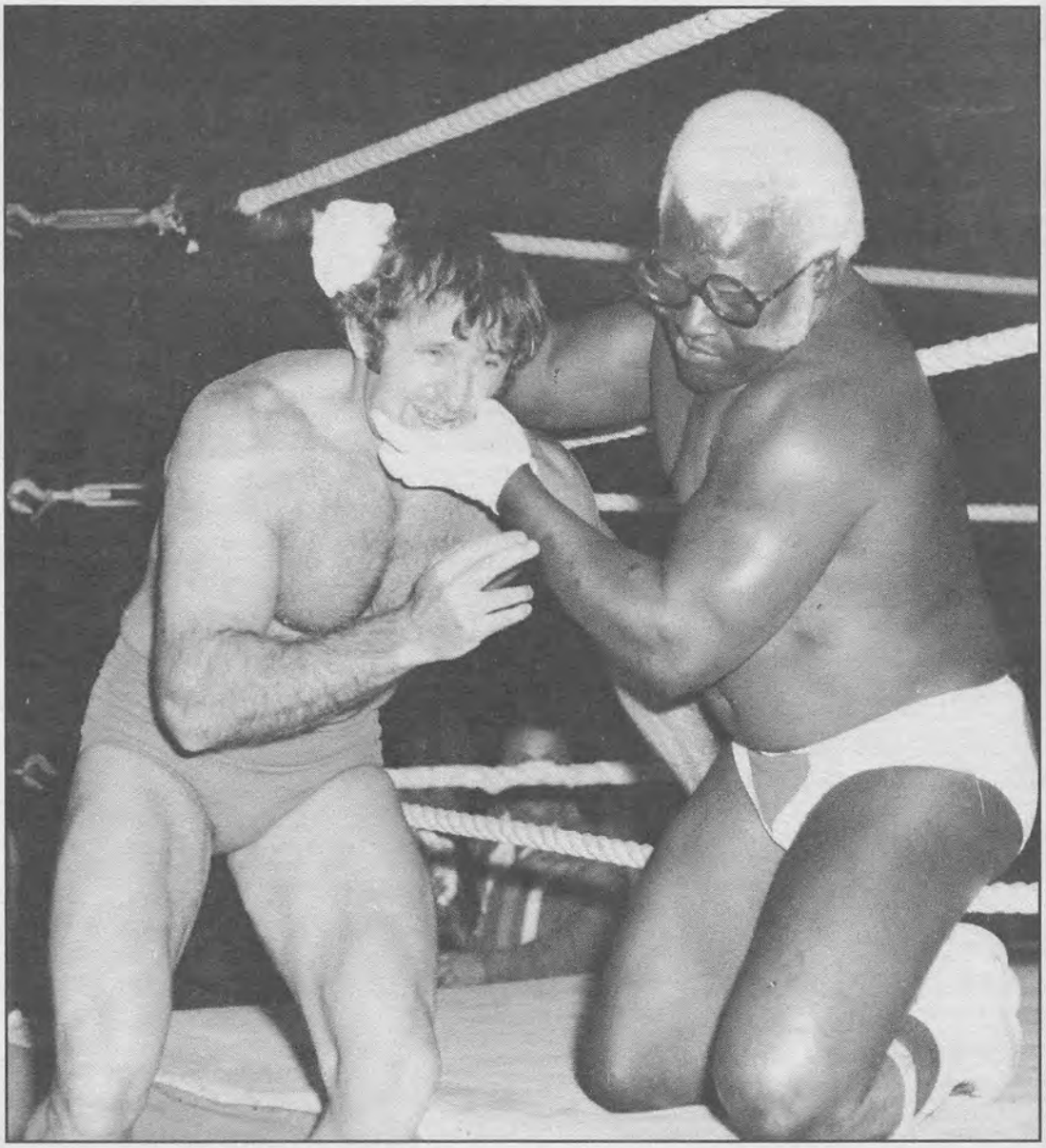
WWF WORLD CHAMPION: BRET HART
(March 20, 1994; from Yokozuna; New York, NY)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE QUEBECERS
(March 31, 1994; from Men on a Mission; Sheffield, England)

BLAST FROM THE PAST

This Month In Wrestling History

"WOULD YOU HIT A MAN WITH GLASSES?"

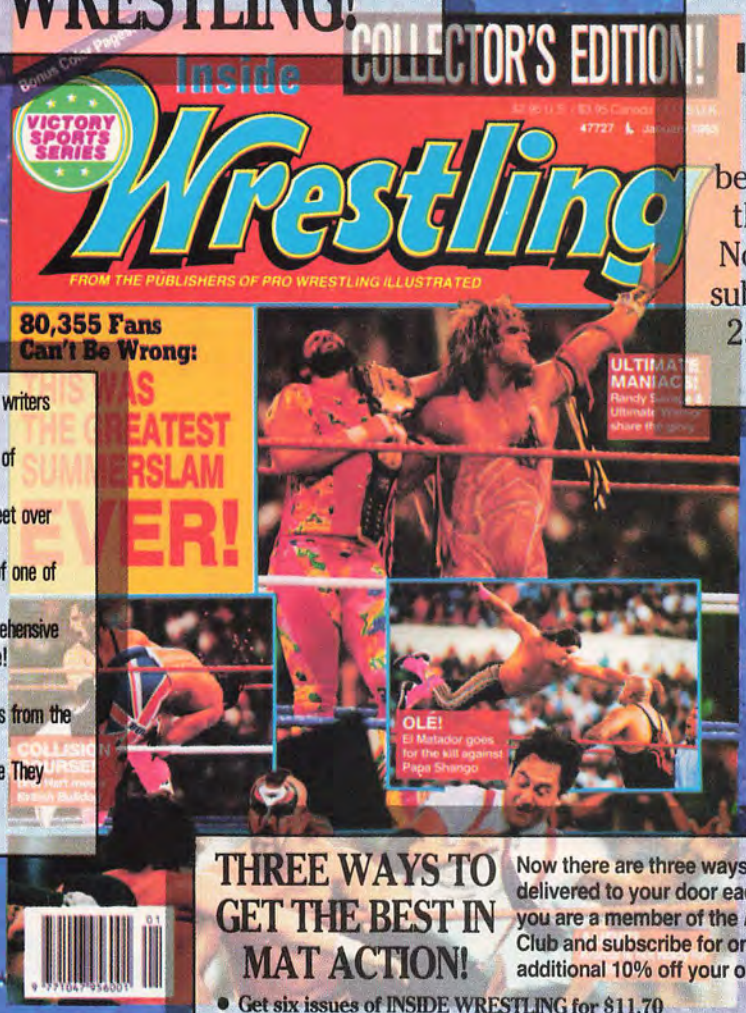


REGGIE PARKS vs. SWEET DADDY SIKI

June 1971

These two former friends were in the midst of a fierce feud when this picture was taken in Montreal. Siki, who was also a part-time country music singer, didn't always wear his glasses into the ring, but he did in many of his bouts against Parks. Though Parks was a fan favorite, Siki probably wanted to be absolutely certain his foe wouldn't resort to eye-gouging!

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